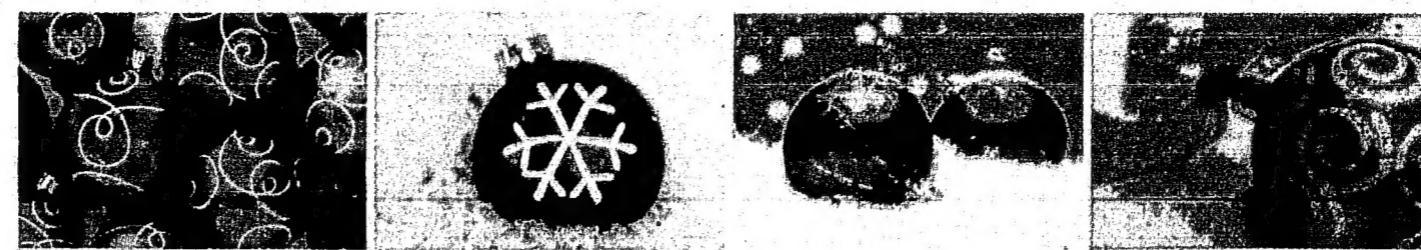


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Holiday Gift Guide > Pgs 13-16 Treats for tree trimming!

THS Senior Nominated to 3 Military Academies > Pg 5

The Bethel Citizen

Vol. CXIX - No. 51

Thursday • December 18, 2014

75¢ a Copy

Serving Bethel and neighboring communities in the mountains of western Maine

School Board again postpones decision on funding formula panel

New impact estimates presented

BY AMY CHAPMAN

For the second time, SAD 44 School Board members voted Monday to table a vote on creating a committee to study alternatives to the formula currently used to share costs among district towns.

The committee being considered would include three representatives from each of the four remaining SAD 44 towns: one selectman, one School Board representative, and one member-at-large.

The group would work with a facilitator to agree on a cost-sharing formula, to be voted on by district towns, that incorporates a combination of valuation and student population.

In proposing to table the vote, Woodstock director Marcel Polak said he would like the School Board's Newry Withdrawal Subcommittee, which was scheduled to meet Wednesday,

to have a chance to closely examine figures that show the potential impact on each town in the district of changing the local cost-sharing formula.

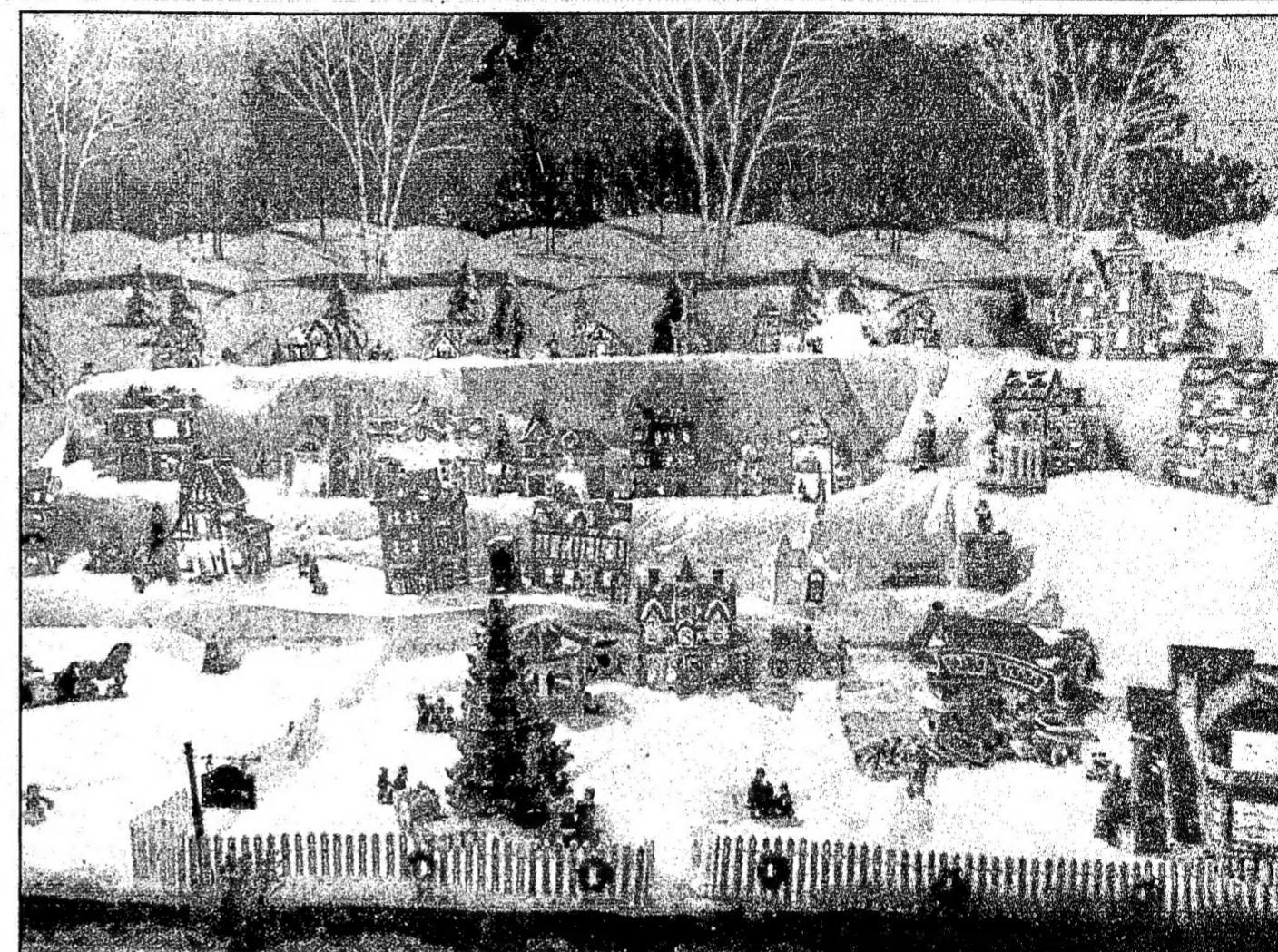
Calculations received from the Maine Department of Education last week compare towns' costs under the current formula, based 100 percent on valuation, to their costs if the formula were changed to include student population as a basis for calculation.

Previous figures received from the DOE were done in September, before Andover voted to withdraw from the district. The new calculations include only the four remaining SAD 44 towns.

Superintendent David Murphy distributed the spreadsheet, but cautioned that the DOE's figures are only estimates.

"The state has been very

See Formula, Page 3



CHRISTMAS VILLAGE IN BETHEL—John Walker of West Bethel has transformed the display windows at Maine Line Products on Main Street in Bethel into a Victorian Christmas village, complete with horse-drawn wagons, carolers, and a skating pond. Building on a collection that was started by his grandfather, Walker has been collecting lighted ceramic Christmas houses since he was six years old. For the past 10 years, he has also been setting up an elaborate outdoor lighting display at his family's home on the Flat Road. The display grows each year—it now has its own Facebook page ("2014 Walker Christmas Display") and includes a radio station that transmits from inside the house. "So when people drive by they can listen to Christmas tunes," said Walker. "I would love people to come out and enjoy it."

A. Chapman

Telstar Freshman Academy to launch soon at 4-H camp

BY AMY CHAPMAN

Telstar Freshmen Academy, the collaborative program between the district and the University of Maine 4-H Learning Center, will go into full implementation in January, the School Board learned Monday.

Beginning with the second semester, all ninth graders will travel to the 4-H Learning Center in Bryant Pond four mornings per week, Monday through Thursday, returning to Telstar for lunch and the afternoon academic block.

At the 4-H Learning Center, they will participate in classes and project work

blocks led by members of the ninth grade team from Telstar and 4-H staff members. The schedule is designed to allow flexibility, providing opportunities for integrated, hands-on learning experiences.

Science teacher Kelly Dole and language arts teacher Doug Bennett will be at the 4-H Learning Center on White days. On Blue days, math teacher Jim Rose and social studies teacher David LeClerc will accompany the students.

Bennett discussed the three opportunities the freshman class had to spend time at the 4-H Learning Center during

See Telstar, Page 6

Selectman critical of Bullen, Forest Authority

BY ALISON ALOISIO

Newry Selectman Brooks Morton last week weighed in on both a recent letter written by Sunday River General Manager Dana Bullen to selectmen on the Newry withdrawal issue, and, separately, a presentation by a representative of the Bingham Forest Authority to Newry Planning Board.

Letter

Two weeks ago Bullen sent a letter to selectmen and to the Citizen offering his opinion on the question of whether the town should withdraw from SAD 44. Bullen said then, in part, "Withdrawal from SAD 44 will negatively impact our community, now

and in the future. We appeal to you to think about this issue very clearly moving forward ... When the withdrawal committee releases its recommendations, we ask that everyone consider the negative impact of withdrawing from SAD 44 against the long-term benefits of remaining part of the school system."

At last week's selectmen's meeting, Morton took exception to the way Bullen went about conveying his opinion. "I think it's kind of telling the way he proceeded to let us know," said Morton. We read it in the paper first. That was a little shocker. Second of all, I think we should write

See Newry, Page 4

Living Nativity celebrates 50 years

In 1964, white sheep dyed black for role

BY AMY CHAPMAN

When the Living Nativity is performed this Sunday afternoon at 5 p.m. on the Bethel Common, it will mark 50 years since Susan Farrar first gathered her friends and neighbors and

began the much-loved tradition, celebrating Christmas and community.

Farrar passed away last June at the age of 96. Her daughter, Lisa Fox, was 12 in 1964, and she remembers the scale of the undertaking. "My mother got the whole

community involved," she said. "It wasn't just one particular church."

"Jim and Mary Lou Fiske were Joseph and Mary, with one of their kids as the baby Jesus," Fox remembered, noting that there is a tradition of keeping the identity

of the Holy Family a secret until the day of the pageant.

Farrar's sister, Emily Saunders, helped to make many of the costumes for the first Living Nativity.

Fox said people left off

See Nativity, Page 3

Commissioners review procedure for Albany to become town or plantation

BY ALISON ALOISIO

Oxford County Commissioners last week received a memorandum from Attorney Bryan Dench outlining options for Albany Town-

ship to change its organizational status to a town or a plantation. The township currently is part of Maine's unorganized territory and Oxford County oversees some services there, includ-

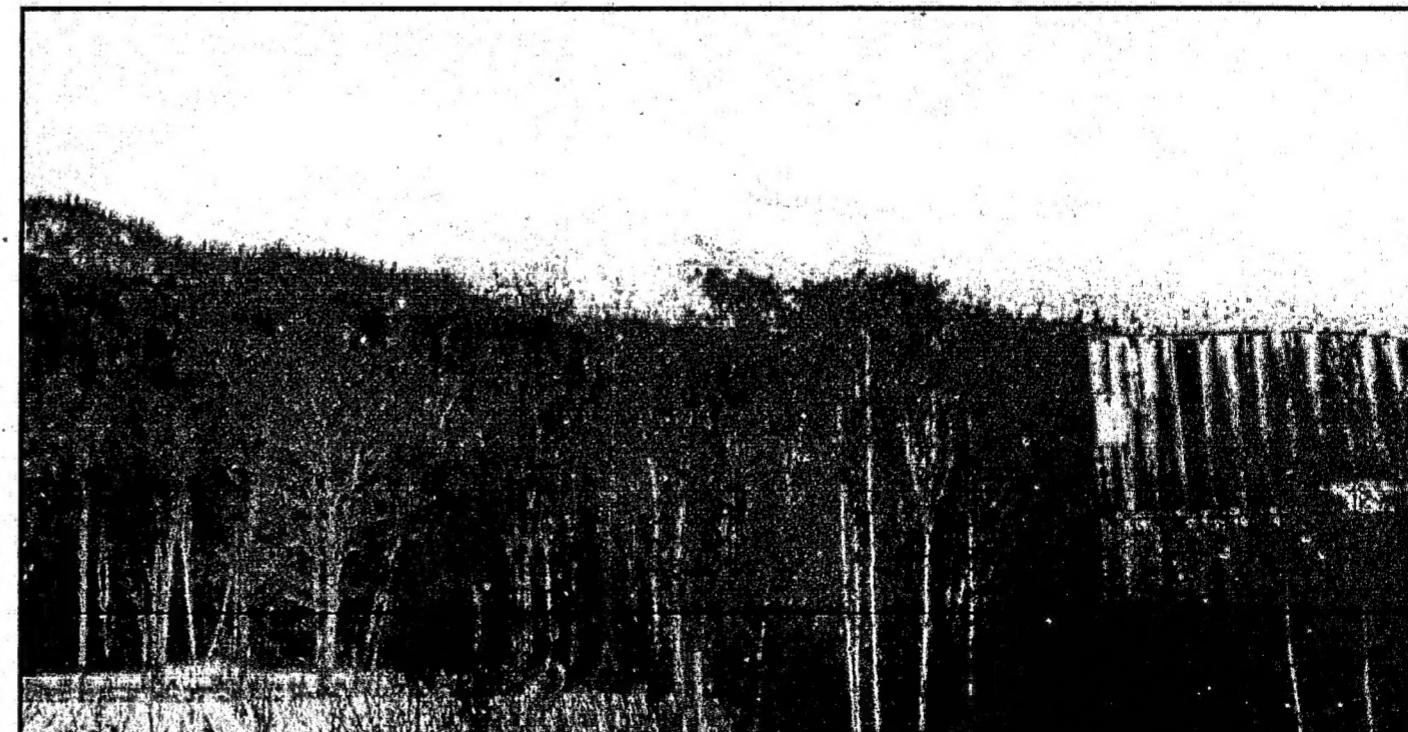
ing road maintenance.

This past summer some Albany residents expressed displeasure with an increase in their tax bills and choices made by the county for road-work on the Hunt's Corner

Road. In the fall they met with County Administrator Scott Cole on the issue.

Later last week, Cole was asked about the the circum-

See Albany, Page 4



WHITE BALDPATE—Brooks Morton of Newry got this photo from near Norm Davis' barn (right foreground) on Route 26 in Newry Monday morning. Baldpate Mountain is in the background, with fog lifting around it.

Holiday Dining, Breakfast & Dinner Daily

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The Bethel Citizen will be **CLOSED**

THURSDAY, DEC. 25 & JAN. 1

Due to the short production time, we've had to move our

AD DEADLINES

to Friday, Dec. 19 & Dec. 26 at 12 Noon

NEWS DEADLINES

to Sunday, Dec. 21 & Dec. 28 at 9pm

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The Bethel Citizen

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Letters

MY 2 CENTS WORTH ON NEWRY

To the Editor:
My two cents worth on Newry's proposed withdrawal! This is not a new issue. I was a school board director in the 90s for six years. Even at that time under the direction of Dwayne Craig, Superintendent, this was also an issue. At that time we had weighted voting. Newry always felt they were getting the short end of the stick. A lot has to do with the large land area, the number of high end second homes and the low amount of students attending from Newry.

I agree with parents who want their children to have a quality education. Kids get labelled in this district because a sibling may have been a wild child (not fair at all) and parents don't like it. Can't blame them. I believe teachers should notify a parent if their child is doing poorly and not have a parent rely on having to go to the computer to look at their grades and see what needs to be done to improve the grade. Many times the computer information has not been updated. I'd like a school district that concentrated on more of the basics like cursive writing being taught in elementary grades, which I understand isn't done unless you have a teacher that is willing or feels it is a necessity. I realize a lot is being asked of teachers these days and I wouldn't want to do this for any money and what is being taught comes from (you got it) the government.

I don't believe the superintendent has to apply for all these grants just to experiment in education when a lot of this stuff has not been tried and or true. Classic example is the kids going to the Bryant Pond Conservation School. I still don't believe in this program, I still think it is ridiculous and the performance based diploma can be accomplished in the classroom at Telstar.

I do believe that Newry withdrawing will cause financial hardship to the district as it could have back in the 90s when it was proposed at that time. What I don't feel bad about is that Newry is in this predicament due to the large amount of second homes in their town with large property values. How many of these second homeowners have sent letters to town officials complaining? Probably none. These second home homeowners know that that is the price you pay. Taxes go for local school districts and support services for the town.

Quality education is important. Quality education is a must. Phil Ottone is correct about quality education. What I would say is that quality education comes from the top. There is no reason with the amount of money that is pumped into this school district and our superintendent being one of the highest paid in the state of Maine that this district isn't getting a better grade than an F. Quality education comes from the leadership of the district and that would be laid in the lap of the superintendent. I have nothing against Mr. Murphy, I like Mr. Murphy, he is a nice guy, but the schoolboard should be asking some very hard questions of their superintendent as to why? Why have so many students transferred out of this district only to be successful at Oxford Hills or Mountain Valley or Gould Academy? Why are parents sending their students to alternative schools like The Eddy School? The schoolboard might request of their leadership, letters sent to those parents whose children transferred out of the high school and ask why? Instead of going through committees to figure this out go to the source, ask the parents whose children no longer attend SAD 44.

Nobody wants their child to get a mediocre education. A parent only wants the best for their child.

*Jane Ryerson
Bethel*

SENIOR PLAYERS THANKS

To the Editor:
As fall winds down, the costumes and props have been put away, the sets and scenery disassembled, the scripts filed or discarded. The Western Mountains Senior College Players have completed another successful season with performances of "The Audition" on November 21 and 22.

That success would have been impossible without the help of the amazing Bethel community. On behalf of WMSC and the Senior Players, Ross Timberlake (our director) and I extend our sincere thanks to all those who have contributed: West Parish Congregational Church for opening their doors to our eleven weeks of rehearsals; to Gould Academy for allowing us to conduct both dress rehearsals and two performances in the Trustees Auditorium of McLaughlin Science Center; to Irene Kuchta for tending the cookie table, as well as the donations jar; and especially to our loyal audience, many of whom have been attending for all eight years of our existence.

Thank you, everyone, and we hope you had as much fun as we did!

*Lorrie Hoeh
Bethel*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Citizen welcomes letters to the editor. We hope our readers will regard the newspaper as a public forum for discussing topics they believe to be of interest to the community.

The deadline for letters to the editor is 4:30 p.m. Monday. Letters run on a space-available basis. Those submitted after the deadline will be considered for publication when circumstances permit.

Send your letters to: Editor, Bethel Citizen, PO Box 109, Bethel, ME 04217-0109. Fax: 824-2426. E-mail: news@bethelcitizen.com.

The Bethel Citizen

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Deadline for town, club and organizational news items is Monday at 4 p.m. Advertising deadlines: Real Estate and half page ads or larger: Friday, Noon. Display and Classified ads: Monday at 4 p.m.

The publisher reserves the right to reject, or edit any material offered for publication.

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NATIVITY CASTING CALL

To the Editor:

It is that time of the year again in which we as a community celebrate the Christmas season in many ways — Country Christmas in Bethel, school programs, church services, caroling, business and family open houses, and the annual Living Nativity, presented on the Common by the people of the community. It is a wonderful opportunity that this community still affords itself, to quietly remember the foundational meaning of Christmas amidst all the hustle and bustle of everything else that has become part of the celebration. How refreshing. How appropriate. What a joyful thing to gather the community around for at this special season of the year.

So, this is the annual call to all who would like to get involved in the presentation again (or for the first time) this year. It takes a lot of people to "pull it off," as we would like to include everyone. We need shepherds, wise men, angels (big and small) and others who can work together with others to fill the cast. We also need community choir members who will sing in the gazebo. Finally, we are also in need of animals (the four-legged kind), sheep, goats, cows or any farm animals.

If anyone would like to be involved at any of these levels, preparation will begin at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 21, at the Bethel Inn Conference Center. So, come, don a costume, grab a shepherd's staff, put on a king's crown, or grow some angel wings and a halo (if for but a short time). We also need a crowd to watch, listen and sing, so come and be part of this special community expression Christmas celebration. The presentation will begin at 5 p.m. on the common, next to the gazebo.

If anyone has questions, or would like to let us know of willingness to help in advance, please call (or leave a message) at 824-2289, Bethel Alliance Church. We'll see everyone on the Bethel Common on the 23rd. Merry Christmas!

For more information, call me at 824-2715 or Nancy Bellinger at 824-4567.

*Drew Webster
Chair, Living Nativity*

PLEASE NUMBER YOUR HOUSES

To the Editor:

On behalf of all the people who rely on house numbers to find you, I want to thank those people who have them on their houses and/or mail boxes. The ones that are clearly visible from the road. (Black numbers on brown houses - not so much).

To the vast majority of others who do not: SHAME ON YOU.

The first responder may see the smoke and flames, but can they see the person lying on the floor having a heart attack or hurt from a fall? The new company you've hired to plow your driveway; can they find your house? Will they plow the right driveway? The fuel or package delivery people? You only have yourself to blame if we can't find you. Not everyone is equipped with GPS.

*Wendy Wood
Greenwood*

COATS FOR KIDS DRIVE

To the Editor:

The National Honor Society at Telstar High School has begun a drive to supply warm winter coats for the children of the greater Bethel area. Boxes for donations have been placed in many central locations: Andover Elementary School, Woodstock Elementary School, Crescent Park Elementary School, Telstar Middle/High School, The IGA, Key Bank, Locke's Mills Legion Hall, West Parish Congregational Church, Bryant Pond Baptist Church, the Little Red Hen restaurant, the First Congregational Church in Andover as well as the Calvary Bible Church, also in Andover. Flyers for "Coats for Kids" can be seen in many local places with this list of locations repeated on them. If you can donate used coats in good condition or new coats, NHS would be most appreciative.

*Aislinn Forbes
Vice President, Telstar National Honor Society*

PLEASE RECYCLE

To The Editor:

I was pleased to see Amy Chapman at our Greenwood/Woodstock transfer station Dec. 14. We agree that the combined recycling system is a worthwhile attempt to get more people sorting their trash.

We all know that whatever goes into the dumpster we pay for and for what is recycled we get paid. Picture this on an individual basis; you have an item you don't want, you can take it one place and get paid for it or another place and you must pay.

I believe those who complain about their taxes yet do not recycle are acting like hypocrites.

Food scraps add a lot of weight to the dumpster so please start composting and save us all money.

Amy said she hadn't decided how she would change her habits with the new system. Having given it some thought, I think I'll do just as I've been doing. The newspapers and junk-mail go in the copper container in the corner and the tin cans, glass and plastic to a container in the garage.

Happy New Year and Please recycle!!

*Nancy Willard
Woodstock*

From the Bethel Town Manager

BY CHRISTINE LANDES

As always, it is my pleasure to provide this bi-weekly column for the citizens of Bethel. The Vernon Street project is progressing nicely. The electricians have been on site working diligently to establish power at the pump station. Central Maine power provided the power and the test phase will begin soon.

Along the same subject of power, a contract was negotiated with Maine Power Options to ensure a fixed rate supply of power at the Waste Water Treatment Facility. The Waste Water Facility is our largest account so it only made sense to lock in a price at a dramatic savings for the next 36 months. As some of you may well be aware, the price of electricity is expected to dramatically increase in the next few months. With rates predicted to go as high as .144 per kWh by March, the Town will have a fixed rate of .08880 per kWh all inclusive. The savings should be seen immediately.

The Board of Selectmen asked me to reach out to those citizens concerned about the sewer rates that have recently changed. I encourage any person that is currently being charged the additional unit fee, to contact me with concerns or suggestions. The Board is seeking out specifics ideas for improvement on this matter. I will forward your comments, concerns or ideas for consideration.

Please be patient with our Public Works crew. They work very diligently to keep our roads and sidewalks safe for everyone in town. Sometimes though, snow removal may not be accomplished as quickly as we would like. That being said, if there is a specific area you feel needs to be addressed regarding snow removal, please contact the Town Office.

As the year winds down, I remind all dog owners to license their dog(s). State law requires a license yearly and if not completed a late charge will be assessed. The license fee is \$6 for a spayed/neutered animal and \$11 for an unaltered animal. A rabies clinic will be held Dec. 20 from 2-4 p.m. at the Bethel Fire Station. One of the clerks will be there to license dogs also.

The holiday schedule for the town office is as follows: closing at noon on December 24th, closed Dec. 25, Dec. 26, and Jan. 1. Have a great holiday season and if there is anything I or the employees of the town can do for you please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here for you.

Bethel's Living Nativity

BY SUE FARRAR

(Note: Lisa Fox provided the following account of the Living Nativity, written by her late mother, Nativity founder Sue Farrar.)

My way of giving thanks for being back home in Maine was to put on the First Living Nativity on the Common the Sunday before Christmas. I used all of my production skills and presented it with live chorus, lights, costumes and animals.

It was a community affair. All of the church bells rang 10 minutes before each 4:30 - 5:30 - 6:30 pm program to alert the townspeople and visitors to follow the "guiding stars" to the manger. The wooden stars were made and

mapped out by school children and placed on all roads leading into Bethel. All traffic was stopped during the pageant.

The manger and fence was put up by Boy Scouts and their leaders. The sheep, oxen, burro and horses were brought in by the local farmers.

The Holy Family was a couple from town who had had a baby around November. This was a secret until the townspeople came. The Wise Men were dressed in their native attire, as were the shepherds. In later years many family groups participated as shepherds.

The Wise Men came bedecked in their finery with their treasures of frankincense and myrrh.

All of the church choirs

in the area came to sing the familiar songs significant to the pageant.

We started with "O Come All Ye Faithful" and ended with "Go Tell it on the Mountain."

The path leading to the stable was lined with paper bags with candles, and

significantly led from the Bethel Inn as if to state that there was "no room for them at the Inn."

All the television stations televised it. After that many towns wrote and asked for details and now have their own Living Nativity.

I directed it for 14 years with the help of all the town and then left it to see if others would take over. They did!! It is still an integral part of Bethel at Christmas time.

Our Back Pages

BY DANNA BROWN NICKERSON

10 years ago: The bands and choruses of Telstar high and middle schools presented their Winter Concert on Dec. 16.

A dozen Bethel firefighters volunteered their time to install weatherization materials in area homes eligible for heating assistance funding.

Births: Mekhi Scott-Adam Hill, Brax Joseph Delulio-Huard.

Deaths: Mary A. Vaughn, Jessie M. Fairbanks, Thomas H. McElveen, Donna L. Gray.

20 years ago: Roger Conant accepted a position as consumer loan officer at Bethel Savings Bank.

Readers of Snow Country magazine voted the Jack Frost Ski Shop in Newry as being among the top 50 ski shops in the country.

Birth: Hannah Elizabeth Ryerson.

Deaths: Frances R. Heath; Merton W. Blood.

30 years ago: Nearly 100 people turned out for the lighting of the Community Christmas Tree on Bethel's common. The community band and chorus provided music.

Monica Rolfe, Deanna Ryerson, and Shye Buck were to be the three angels in the Living Nativity Pageant.

The Bethel Senior Citizen's annual Christmas party was held at Bethel Inn with 84 attending.

40 years ago: Mr. and Mrs. Larry Fox and Amos portrayed the Holy Family in Bethel's annual Living Nativity.

An all-night snowfall deposited upwards of eight inches of snow in the area, making for hazardous driving conditions and canceling school.

50 years ago: Bethel's first Living Nativity took place on Sunday, Dec. 20, on the Common. WMTW TV was expected to be on hand to televise the proceedings.

New headquarters for the Evans Notch Ranger District, White Mountain National Forest, had been recently constructed in Bethel on land purchased from Maurice and Rebecca Kendall.

Births: Richard Douglas Hutt, Kevin Mark Tuttle, Laurie Ann Hart.

Death: Mrs. Ethelyn H. Ryerson.

60 years ago: The Bazaar Committee met at the Legion Home to assemble Christmas baskets.

Santa Claus was scheduled to arrive in Bethel by train the afternoon of Dec. 24, with presents for all boys and girls up to the age of eight.

Birth: Dianne Lee Hunt.

Deaths: Arthur C. Parker, Mrs. Selina J. Sanborn, Mrs. Gertrude Stone.

7

Nativity

Continued from page 1

boxes of old curtains, tablecloths, and other fabric at Saunders' Main Street home for her to sew into robes for the shepherds, angels, and wise men.

The Saunders home (now the business of Rick and Ellen Whitney) also served as a drop-off point for the many farm animals on loan the day of the pageant.

"Farmers brought their sheep and cows and horses into town and put them in Aunt Emily's barn," Fox said.

Farrar was determined to have a black sheep as part of the first pageant, and when none could be found, a white sheep was dyed to fit the part.

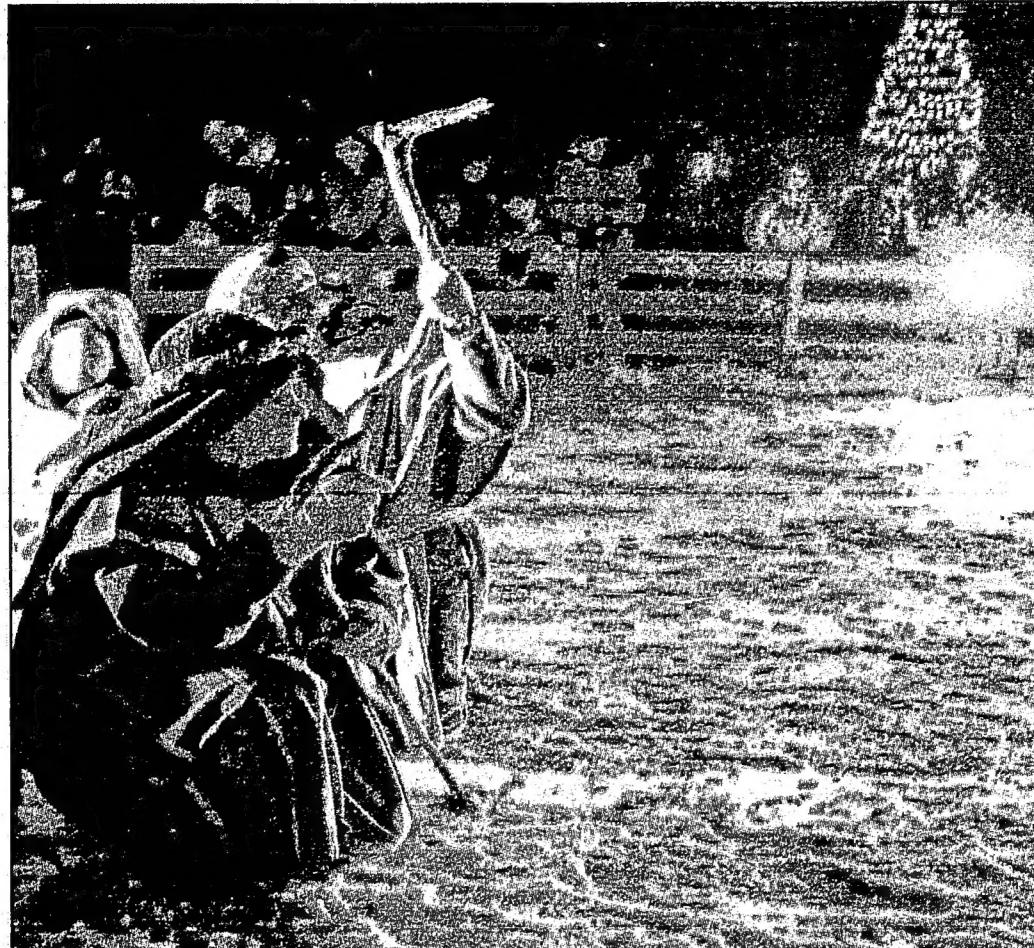
John K. Brown, longtime editor of the Bethel Citizen, provided details of the first Living Nativity in his "1964 News Annual Review" (reprinted by Donald G. Bennett on The Bethel Journals website, www.thebetheljournals.info).

The local Boy Scouts, under the supervision of Ernest Perkins and Stanley Davis, designed and built the manger and stable. Bethel Alliance Faye Hart and her son Bruce created life-sized hand-painted figures of the Holy Family to be placed inside the stable after the pageant.

Crescent Park School students created dozens of wooden stars, which were covered with tin foil and placed on the telephone poles along roads leading into Bethel from all directions, a tradition that is being revived this year.

Fox said students in the Mahoosuc Kids after-school program and members of the Bethel Alliance Church youth group have been busy making the stars that will lead people to the stable on the Common.

According to Brown's account of the 1964 pageant, "Those in the cast included Robert Keniston, who gave a running commentary;



Shepherds from a Living Nativity held several years ago.

File photo

bell ringers were Mike Tibbets, Mike Chretien, Lincoln Fiske, Jr., Seth Timberlake, Peter Kailey, and Steve Hastings."

"Other participants were Margaret Fiske, Greg Glines, Carolyn Fiske, James Fiske, Lawrence Davis, Roland Glines, James Lowe, Daniel Vogt, Claire Bachelder, Merton Brown, Timothy Hutchins, James Davis, Warren Tibbets, Allen Walker, Randy Chretien, Roger Buck, Jack Brooks, David Thurston, Larry Jacobs, Peter Burgess, Richard Waldron, William Eames, and Douglas Farrar."

Blake McKay and Fred McMillin took charge of the lighting, with Paul Pierce responsible for special lighting effects.

Claus Weise, program director for WMTW-Channel 8, arranged for the first Living Nativity to be taped and broadcast on Christmas Eve

at 5:30 p.m. and midnight.

A community event Farrar chaired the Living Nativity throughout the 1960s and 1970s, then passed the job of directing on to longtime participant Merton Brown. Others took a turn over the years, with the duty eventually settling onto the shoulders of Bethel Alliance Church member Drew Webster.

Webster said that more of the responsibility for the Living Nativity has gradually fallen to his church, and they provide storage for the props and costumes, but the goal has always been to keep it a community event.

Each year, they reach out to the other area churches and the community at large in the weeks leading up to the event, and try to get as many people involved as possible.

The Bethel Inn provides use of its conference center

as a staging area. A crew from D.A. Wilson clears snow from part of the Common.

This year's narrator is Rev. Peter Carter of the Bethel Church of the Nazarene, and members of several church choirs participated.

"We hope to fill the gazebo with choir members," Webster said. "And we hope that all the churches will ring their bells that evening," as they did 10 minutes before the performance in 1964.

Ellen Whitney has been involved with the pageant for at least 30 years. In 1993, she and Rick, with their month-old son Danny, portrayed the Holy Family.

She will direct the choir for this year's pageant, and encourages anyone who would like to sing to come to the Bethel Inn Conference Center at 3:30 on Sunday afternoon so that the group

HOLIDAY WORSHIP GUIDE

Nurture your spirit with a joyous celebration of the holidays at these local houses of worship.

Bethel Alliance Church
251 Walkers Mills Road, Bethel
207-824-2289
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service: December 24 • 7 p.m.

Christ Episcopal Church
35 Paris Street, Norway
207-743-5782
www.christchuchnorway.me
christch@megalink.net
Christmas Eve Services: December 24 • 3 & 10 p.m.
No Service Christmas Day Sunday, December 28 • 9 a.m.
Service of Christmas Lessons & Carols (No Eucharist)

Parish of the Holy Savior
St. Athanasius & St. John Church
126 Main Avenue, Rumford
Christmas Eve (Rumford) 4 p.m. & 10 p.m.
Christmas Day (Rumford) 9:30 a.m.

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
The stone church at the rotary in Rumford
Christmas Eve: December 24 • 5 p.m.
A Festival of Lessons & Carols

Our Lady of Snows
Walkers Mills Road, Bethel
Christmas Eve (Bethel) 6:30 p.m.

has a chance to rehearse together before the performance at 5:00.

An estimated 1,000 people viewed the first Living Nativity, which was 30 minutes long and was presented three times. In between performances, cast members were served coffee and hot chocolate by the local Girl Scouts.

This year, the Bethel Historical Society has invited the cast and audience to enjoy refreshments at the Moses Mason House following the pageant.

Bethel Alliance Church Pastor Kevin Bellinger said

the dedicated crew of volunteers is usually eager to take down the props immediately after the performance.

"It's that good old Mainers' work ethic" that drives them, he said, but this year he hopes to convince them to wait, perhaps until the next morning.

"I really hope everyone will gather at the Moses Mason House for fellowship afterward, and enjoy a little of the Christmas spirit," Bellinger said.

"Let's all put the rest of the world on hold for a few moments and consider the gifts of the season."

Formula

Continued from page 1

clear to say, don't use this for budgetary purposes," he said.

Based on the current method, the costs to each town are estimated as follows: Bethel \$2,776,555; Greenwood \$1,002,645; Norway \$2,892,245; Woodstock \$1,041,208.

Basing funding 100 percent on student population: Bethel \$4,315,489; Greenwood \$1,098,138; Norway \$359,624; Woodstock \$1,939,401.

If the formula were based equally on valuation and student population: Bethel \$3,546,022; Greenwood \$1,050,391; Norway \$1,625,934; Woodstock

\$1,490,305.

Any other combination of the two components would also be an option, such as a 95/5 percent, 85/15 percent, or 75/25 percent split between valuation and student population.

"We work very well in the committee system," Polak said. "It gives a group of people an opportunity to really study something in depth. There are some strategic and legal issues here that I don't know if we can answer tonight."

He said he would like to board to have a recommendation from the subcommittee to act upon at their next meeting.



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Rotary Club
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toward their
goal of
\$25,000

To be used to
purchase toys
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Newry

Continued from page 1

him and tell him it's not up to the selectmen, it's up to the [withdrawal] committee now. If he was meaning that we should come out and not support it, I think he's being a little presumptuous."

Chairman Wendy Hanscom said, "The selectmen don't have anything to do with it. It's all up to the residents."

Morton said the Withdrawal Committee, of which he is also a member, "has extended an invitation to Dana."

BFA

Morton also questioned a position taken at a Dec. 3 Planning Board meeting by Attorney Jarrod Crockett on behalf of the Bingham Forest Authority. The authority oversees the 2,300-acre Bingham Forest, formerly property of the Bethel Water District. The BFA is looking longterm at developing recreational trails on the land, most of it located in Newry and comes under Protection District zoning.

Last month Morton said at a selectmen's meeting that he had read a section in the BFA management plan posing the question whether a Newry zoning ordinance might possibly need to be changed. He said if that was the case it would need to go to Town Meeting.

Code Enforcement Officer Dave Bonney said at that same meeting that under town ordinance land based recreation activities require Planning Board review and approval. Morton, who formerly was chairman of the Planning Board, said he thought the BFA should come to that board to discuss whether an application for changes of use of the property would be needed. (For Bingham management plan discussion of the issue, see Page 4)

Morton also cited a video on the Bethel town website about plans for the Bingham land in which a comparison

is made between potential trail options for the property and existing carriage trails in Bar Harbor. He said it was an example of change of use.

At last week's selectmen's meeting, Morton voiced his opinion to fellow selectmen on Crockett's presentation to planners on Dec. 3. "I've got to say I'm pretty disappointed," Morton said. "He argued about how they didn't have to do anything. They weren't changing anything. They weren't changing the use. It was exactly what it was."

But Morton told selectmen the video shows something "different than a water district," and added that when there was a reservoir there people were discouraged from going into the area.

He also said Crockett used the argument that according to town officials, Step Falls and The Loop Trail did not come to the Planning Board for past trail and parking lot projects, respectively.

Morton said, "I would contend that those groups had simply assumed they didn't have to come to the board rather than asking.

Responding to Morton's criticism Monday, Crockett said the Bingham land has been used for years for hunting, hiking and occasional skiing. He also said existing logging trails would double as hiking/biking trails where possible.

He said the plans are not commercial in nature, and any parking lot improvements or bathrooms would be done in Bethel.

"How can a 'change of use' exist where there is not a commercial activity subject to review?" he said. "I would contend if any landowner in Newry created a snowmobile trail or hiking trail and allowed hunting on their land to the general public, free of charge, they would not be subject to Newry Planning Board review. That has been

the case historically and can be easily proven by riding the snowmobile trails."

But Crockett said he would submit an application to the Planning Board "to be a good neighbor and keep the peace." The board was expected to consider whether the application was needed at its meeting last night (Wednesday).

(Note: At this week's selectmen's meeting, Town Administrator Loretta Powers said the Step Falls parking lot had received permits from the CEO, and Morton said the Loop Trail parking lot had been reviewed by the Planning Board. Powers said if any mistakes were made in not having the board review the projects, it would not affect consideration of the Bingham land now.)

Roadwork

In other business last week, the board discussed the possibility of proposing a road bond at Town Meeting in March to do all the work needed to upgrade a three-mile stretch of the Sunday River Road. Last month they received estimates from Bruce Manzer Inc. of Anson for six sections of the road, divided up to provide flexibility of choice for the town. The overall total was \$900,000.

Morton suggested offering voters the entire package in a secret ballot vote. "It would cover the whole thing, including a different approach to the Letter S than the completely-engineered changing the slope," he said.

By presenting a package, he said, "people will have the option, 'Do you want to commit to just under \$1 million for however many years?'" Hanscom said if the town could realize savings from doing one large project in one year rather than doing it in sections, it might be possible to take out the bond for five years.

Albany

Continued from page 1

stances leading to Dench's memo.

"Commissioners requested incorporation information from their attorney, following ongoing complaints from Albany residents alleging poor judgment on the part of county officials regarding road work," Cole said by e-mail. "The Commissioners disagree with those allegations and, in response, are now suggesting that a local municipal government with its leaders directly elected by the people of Albany may be the best venue for those Albany residents to have full input on how public money is spent within township boundaries. That is not a firm position of the Commissioners, but they believe it is worthy of discussion. Hence the request for legal opinion."

County Commissioner Chairman Steve Merrill said Friday no next steps are currently planned on the issue.

"There's nothing on the table right now for the commissioners' court to do anything about Albany," he said.

Citing the meeting with residents in Albany this fall, Merrill said, "The amount of questions about how Albany residents were being taxed, and what caused the spike in this year's taxes - it just begged the question to find out if there was anything that may lead to re-incorporation. It's an open question. We didn't know if there was any interest in the residents at this point in time."

He acknowledged that a 2000 proposal for Albany to incorporate was "flatly denied" by residents, but he added, "Things change, and at some point in time it might be advantageous for them to do that. We just need to be aware of that moving target and sure residents have any options open to them, at all times."

Dench's memo
Wrote Dench in his Dec. 5

memo to commissioners:

"I have been asked to explain the process by which unorganized territory is incorporated to create a municipality (a city or town). This issue has come to the fore with reference to Albany Township. There is interest in determining whether Albany Township (which was once a town) could again be organized as a political subdivision for purposes of its own local government and maintenance of roads and other facilities. They also have the authority to adopt local subdivision, land use and zoning ordinances and controls and provide for their administration."

The current procedure to organize a plantation follows:

1. "Any unincorporated township may, by petition of 20% or more of the voters of the township, require the county commissioners to determine from the Federal Decennial Census or by actual enumeration whether the township has 200 inhabitants or more."

2. "If the report made under subsection 1 indicates that the township has a population of 200 or more, the county commissioners shall, with the consent of a majority of the petitioners under subsection 1, issue their warrant to an inhabitant of the unincorporated township, commanding that inhabitant to notify the voters of the unincorporated township, to assemble on a day and at a place named in the warrant, to choose a moderator, clerk, 3 assessors, treasurer, collector of taxes, constable, school committee and other necessary plantation officers."

An alternative method for forming a plantation is also described.

3. "Any unincorporated or unorganized place containing any number of inhabitants may be organized under this subsection. One or more of the county commissioners, on written application signed by at least 3 voters of any unincorporated or unorganized place in their county, may issue a warrant to one of the 3 voters, requiring that voter to announce a meeting of the voters of the unincorporated or unorganized place residing within the limits described in the warrant. When a state or county tax is assessed to the unincorporated or unorganized place, the Treasurer of State or the county commissioners, without application by the voters, may issue their warrant to an inhabitant of the unincorporated or unorganized place. In either case the warrant, notice of meeting and proceedings shall be the same as provided in subsection 2."

Bingham management plan

Maintaining (which includes trail systems) require Planning Board review and approval;

"Commercial Recreation," defined as any commercial enterprise which receives a fee in return for the provision of some recreational activity including but not limited to: amusement facilities, racquet and tennis clubs, health facility, amusement parks, gyms and swimming pools, shooting ranges, skiing, golf course, and the like," are prohibited in the zoning.

The Town's zoning restrictions do not significantly limit those uses permitted under the Consent Order with the possible exception of certain recreational uses that could be contemplated for the property specifically:

"Campgrounds," defined as "an area to accommodate two or more parties in temporary living quarters, including, but not limited to tents, recreational vehicles, or other shelters, for which a fee is charged," are prohibited in this zone;

"Land Based Recreation Activities, Equipment &

opment contemplated in this plan. However, the Protection Zone was established to protect the Bethel water supply, which is also required under the Consent Order, so it would seem reasonable to expect that zoning issues can be resolved through cooperative planning efforts between the two towns.

"A plantation is very similar to a town except for the general home rule authority to enact local ordinances, which plantations do not possess. Plantations do perform many local functions that towns perform, however. They have authority over tax assessment and schools,

they went to bed I moved them to the back of the tree. I really was a good mother, but when it came to my Christmas tree vision I turned into something else.

Well, a lot of evergreen has gone by the boards over the years and I am no longer a Christmas tree snob. Sure, I still prefer a perfect shaped tree, but I'll settle for whatever I can get. I still have some of the ornaments that my children made and have added the ones my grandchildren made and I hang them all front and center.

I was once told that with age comes wisdom and I guess that's true because somewhere along the line I became wise enough to realize the vision of the Christmas tree and what's under it really don't matter; it's those of us around it on Christmas morning that count.

A few years ago I bumped into that friend of so long ago and told her how her family Christmas tree when we were teens put me on a quest of searching for the perfect tree for so many years. She laughed and said, "Didn't you know? That was an artificial tree that my Dad paid a fortune for." I could have cried.

Now my Christmas tree for this year is waiting on the porch to be put up and I think it's a pretty good tree, but I don't really care just how good. My kids and grandkids are coming to help me decorate and we'll have hot cocoa and play Christmas songs.

The way I see it this tree will be a vision of beauty and without a doubt I will have THE perfect Christmas tree at last!



The Way I See It

BY SHARON BOUCHARD

Most of my adult life I have been a Christmas tree snob. I'm not proud of that, but it's just the way it is, or more to the point, the way it was.

I know my lust for the perfect tree being perfectly decorated harkens back to my childhood. Not because we had perfect Christmas trees when I was a kid, but because we didn't.

When I was quite young I thought the family Christmas tree was just right, but that was partly because I made miles of construction paper chains to hang on the tree and I had no other trees to compare them with.

Then in my early teens I went to a friend's house and saw the absolutely most perfect Christmas tree in the world. It was at least 8 feet tall, perfect symmetry, beautiful decorations, icicles draping every branch just so, a beautiful angel on the top and I didn't see any electrical tape on the light cords like the ones at home. I fell in love with the vision that gave me new meaning to "Oh Christmas Tree."

I'm sure there were places where Christmas trees were for sale back then, but my family was not in the tree buying income bracket. My father always drove along back roads in the country until he saw a tree that could be easily cut. The only criteria were that it be no more than 4 feet tall and that it was free. Fullness and symmetry were not requirements.

To give my father credit he did his best to try to find a decent tree, but roadside trees usually leave a lot to be desired, at least by my standards. Plus size mat-

ing held up for my inspection. By the time I found my vision my family was ready to tie me on the care roof with the tree, but I was at least happy.

More often than not my vision was too wide to fit through the door and too tall to fit in the house, but my husband became very good at cutting and trimming. Once the tree was shaped through the door and could be placed in a stand without hitting the ceiling it was time to decorate.

I was as fussy about the decorating as I was about the size and shape of the tree. My kids made ornaments and of course I praised them and when

the power to raise money by taxation, and the power to

provide for fire protection, sewers and drains, dumps and roads. They also have the authority to adopt local subdivision, land use and zoning ordinances and controls and provide for their administration."

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He outlined the process for each, and excerpts follow:

Regarding incorporation as a town, Dench wrote that the "Supreme Judicial Court has long declared that municipal corporations are created by and exist solely at the pleasure of the legislature. The principle is so well settled that the leading cases go back to the 19th century.

"Thus the process to incorporate a town from unorganized territory would be for the legislature to enact a Private and Special Law containing an act of incorporation creating and naming the municipality, describing the land to be encompassed within the municipality, and investing it with the powers of a municipality under Maine law.

"This could be done at the request of the board of commissioners or one or more citizens to a legislator, or by the Legislature on its own initiative. As Albany, which is the focus of the present inquiry, was once an incorporated town, perhaps the simplest and most direct approach would be to research the original act of incorporation and re-enact it on the same terms.

"A plantation is very similar to a town except for the general home rule authority to enact local ordinances, which plantations do not possess. Plantations do perform many local functions that towns perform, however. They have authority over tax assessment and schools,

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Well, a lot of evergreen has gone by the boards over the years and I am no longer a Christmas tree snob. Sure, I still prefer a perfect shaped tree, but I'll settle for whatever I can get. I still have some of the ornaments that my children made and have added the ones my grandchildren made and I hang them all front and center.

I was once told that with age comes wisdom and I guess that's true because somewhere along the line I became wise enough to realize the vision of the Christmas tree and what's under it really don't matter; it's those of us around it on Christmas morning that count.

A few years ago I bumped into that friend of so long ago and told her how her family Christmas tree when we were teens put me on a quest of searching for the perfect tree for so many years. She laughed and said, "Didn't you know? That was an artificial tree that my Dad paid a fortune for." I could have cried.

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Telstar senior nominated to military academies

BY TERRY KARKOS,
SUN MEDIA WIRE

For the first time in several years, a Telstar High School senior has been nominated for three U.S. military academies.

Last week Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King nominated Gregory Wheeler so he could apply to either the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado, West Point in New York or the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y.

Wheeler is the son of Bethel natives and Telstar alumni Tim and Stacey Wheeler. He is the youngest of three children. His two sisters are in college.

"We're very proud of him in whatever he chooses to do," Stacey Wheeler said.

"It's a fantastic opportunity," Tim Wheeler said. "You can always come back to your roots. It will be a good opportunity with the travel to see things."

Tim owns and operates Wheeler's Redemption Center in town and Stacey has worked for 24 years as a registered nurse at Stephens Memorial Hospital in Norway.

The family is steeped in military service to country, with uncles and grandparents mostly serving in the U.S. Army, including one uncle who served in four theaters of operations during World War II.

Additionally, Greg's mother served six years as a nurse in the Army Reserves. She said she had just married Tim Wheeler when she was activated in 1991 for Desert Storm, the war waged against Iraq following its invasion and annexation of Kuwait.

Their skinny, nearly 6-foot-tall son, however, said Wednesday that his desire to serve in the military started six months ago, separate from family tradition.

"Yeah, it's pretty independent of any family history," Greg Wheeler said.

"There's no family pressure," his mother said, laughing.

Greg Wheeler said he wants to serve mainly for two reasons.

"It's kind of like a combination of both—education and serving the country—like I'll get education out of it, and I also get to give something, as well—so I kind of like the whole deal," he said.

"Ultimately, I'll be serving in the military as an officer, so it will be a pretty significant portion of my life, especially if I make a career out of it."

Bethel Library adds new books to collection

The Bethel Library has recently added the following books to its collection.

Fiction: "The Narrow Road to the Deep North" by Richard Flanagan, "And Grant You Peace" by Kate Flora, "Dark Places" by Gillian Flynn, "Sharp Objects" by Gillian Flynn, "Hansel and Gretel" by Neil Gaiman, "The Museum of Extraordinary Things" by Alice Hoffman, "The Slow Regard of Silent Things" by Patrick Rothfuss, "On the Oceans of Eternity: A Novel of the Change (Island Book 3)" by S. M. Stirling, "Citizens Creek" by Laila Tademy, and "The Martian" by Andy Weir.

Non-fiction: "41: A Portrait of My Father" by George W. Bush, "Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End" by Atul Gawande, "A

Greg said he'd been filling out forms for the military since the end of summer. He is applying to West Point and the Air Force.

"If I wasn't going to get into one of the federal service academies, I was thinking of getting into neuroscience, but in the military, I'd more than likely go with majoring in chemistry or biology," he said.

Fitness is another impetus for the youth who excels at Nordic and Alpine skiing, competing at the Skimeister level on varsity teams. Stacey Wheeler said their son was born into a family of skiers and began skiing when he was three years old.

Last year, he took third in the state for Skimeister and was eighth in Alpine and giant slalom.

Greg Wheeler also competes in varsity cross-country and track-and-field running. He enjoys running when not in school and loves exercising, both physically and mentally, he said.

He enjoys philosophy, but his major hobby is reading and it shows in his school. Currently, he is fifth in his class of 57 seniors and has a grade average of 93, which is considered an A minus at Telstar.

As a freshman, Greg said he doubled up on math and science courses. In his junior year, the school ran out of math and science courses to offer him, so he began taking college courses online.

He said he wants to focus on math and science in college.

"I like how you never have all the answers (in science) and, alternatively in math, I like how there is only one answer, even though there might be numerous ways of getting it," Greg Wheeler said. "And that I'm good at it."

So good that he and some friends began a peer tutoring program in five subjects last year to help other Telstar High School students with learning, rather than simply having a free period at the library.

Those 80 hours, combined with 16 hours in a muscular dystrophy project, give Greg Wheeler 36 more hours of community service than needed to graduate from Telstar. And that doesn't include 48 hours helping with Special Olympics each winter, his mother said. He's yet to submit that paperwork to the school.

"The Muscular Dystrophy was a project he did with his sister, Rachael," Stacey Wheeler said. "He's pretty independent of any family history," Greg Wheeler said.

"There's no family pressure," his mother said, laughing.

Greg Wheeler said he wants to serve mainly for two reasons.

"It's kind of like a combination of both—education and serving the country—like I'll get education out of it, and I also get to give something, as well—so I kind of like the whole deal," he said.

"Ultimately, I'll be serving in the military as an officer, so it will be a pretty significant portion of my life, especially if I make a career out of it."



Telstar High School senior Gregory Wheeler with his parents, Tim and Stacey Wheeler of Bethel.

Wonderful Life."

"That was his acting debut," Stacey Wheeler said of "The Wizard of Oz" production.

"It's funny," Greg said. "Like for a couple of months afterwards, little kids who saw the play would see me, point and whisper, 'It's the lion.'"

In the other play, Greg said he was the main character's brother, "who was off fighting a war for most of the play. I never realized the irony of that until today."

He said he doesn't do much outside of school.

"I'm taking college courses, so those take up my nights and sports take up my afternoons and the rest of the day, and on the weekends I work," Wheeler said.

He also works two seasonal jobs on weekends, working at Cafe DiCocoa, a market bakery and cafe, and at The Bethel Inn.

Unlike most high school seniors, Greg Wheeler hasn't bothered to get a driver's license, because he has a motorcycle permit and a motorcycle.

He also enjoys learning statistics and critical thinking, or Philosophy 101.

"It actually just teaches you how to argue," he said. "Basically, philosophy is your ability to reason ideas. I like philosophy just because it's just a really subtle way of learning how to deal with the world. I like to think."

Greg Wheeler said his ambition is to excel at life.

"Aristotle once said that the greatest happiness comes from self-realization and that's what I'm going for—be all you can be," he said.

Wheeler said Friday. "They did a bottle drive and put a softball team together for a tournament with C.N. Brown. They placed second for fundraising.

"Special Olympics is something some of the members from the Nordic team do each year with Maine Game Warden Norm Lewis and his son, Ben, up to Sugarloaf," in Carrabassett Valley, she said.

"He's just a great outstanding student," she said. "He is a great student who is very respectful and a hard worker. He's had to overcome challenges. All students have challenges at some point, courses that challenge them, and you have to learn to work around those challenges—and, obviously, he's done that."

"He's definitely a student who has pushed himself to accomplish these things and that's what it's all about—advanced placement courses and is very involved in clubs.

Speaking to Wheeler's nomination to three military academies, Bell said, "It makes us all very proud here that we have students that are able to achieve at that level."

Students engaged in elevated learning," she said. "And he's quite an athlete."

School guidance counselor or secretary Marilyn Howe said Greg Wheeler is the first Telstar senior since Ben Cross in 2009 to get nominated for a military academy.

"He's going to be a lifelong learner, that boy," Howe said.

He also acts in student plays.

"Acting is just fun, and I find that I'm not terribly nervous when it comes to performing in front of crowds," he said. "I don't know, it felt pretty natural to do."

Last year, Greg played The Cowardly Lion in "The Wizard of Oz," and was in last year's winter play, "It's A

OCSD Patrol Log

Wednesday, Dec. 10

At 5:09 p.m. Cpl. George Cayer assisted Berlin, N.H. police with a theft investigation. A subject at Walmart in Gorham, N.H. had stolen a purse from a shopping cart. With surveillance video the subject and vehicle were identified. The corporal responded to Gilead and made contact with the suspect. After a short interview he confessed and the purse and contents were recovered. The investigation was turned over to New Hampshire police.

Thursday, Dec. 11

At 5:16 p.m. Cpl. Justin Brown arrested a subject on Howe Hill Road in Greenwood for stalking and several protection order violations. The arrest stemmed from several months of violations and ongoing behavior.

Friday, Dec. 12

At 11 a.m. a report was received from a business on Railroad Street in Bethel of a subject who has been trespassing going into the store. Deputy Mike Halacy responded. Criminal charges were pending.

Saturday, Dec. 13

At 5:38 p.m. Deputy Dani Welch arrested Frank Ettl, 70, for OUI after an accident on Martin Lane in Bethel. The vehicle had gone off the road and struck a tree. There were no injuries.

Sunday, Dec. 14

At 1:34 a.m. Deputy Steve Witham responded to Main Street in Bethel for a report of a subject trying to enter his room at the wrong hotel. The subject was given a ride.

At 3:28 p.m. Deputy Nathan Bowie responded to the East Bethel Road for a report of a bucket of toxic waste and blood with drowned rats in it on a doorstep. The caller requested a report on it.

Woodstock Residents

Town Meeting Warrant March 23, 2015

Any Woodstock Resident wishing to have an article placed on the 2014 Town Meeting Warrant agenda should submit it to the Selectmen on or before January 15, 2015 as set by town vote.

Snow Plowing

Please remember that according to Maine State Law Title 29 section 2396 item 4, A person may not place and allow to remain on a public way snow or slush that has not accumulated there naturally.

Dog Licenses

Dog Licenses for 2015 are now available at the Woodstock Town Office. Dogs that are six months or older, or within 10 of ownership, must now be licensed.

License fees are \$ 6.00 neutered/spayed
\$ 11.00 not neutered/spayed
\$ 42.00 Kennel (10 or more)

The Woodstock Dog Control Ordinance requires a kennel for more than three dogs at one residence.

You will need to bring a current rabies immunization and a certificate of neutering or spaying, if applicable.

A late fee of \$ 25.00 will be charged starting on

February 1, 2015.

Nomination papers

Nomination papers will be available at the Woodstock Town Office on December 29, 2014 for any Woodstock Resident interested in running for the office of Selectmen, Assessor & Overseer of the Poor or the office of MSAD #44 School Board Director.

Not less than 25, nor more than 100, signatures of registered Woodstock voters are required to file nomination papers at the Town Clerk's Office. Completed nomination papers are due at the Town Office on February 7, 2015, which is the required 45 days before the annual town meeting.

OCSD Jail Log

Dec. 14, 2:34 a.m.: Stephen W. Chaisson, 51, of Franconia, N.H., domestic assault; by Deputy Steve Witham in Newry.

SERVING CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS 5:30-8

Sudbury Inn
LODGING & FINE DINING
151 MAIN STREET, BETHEL, ME

Winter Holiday

SHRIMP COCKTAIL \$10

CREAM OF MUSHROOM SOUP \$7

MAINE CRAB CAKES \$9

BAKED BRIE \$8

PRIME RIB \$26

ROAST LAMB \$24

ROASTED DUCK \$26

MUSHROOM LASAGNA \$18

BAKED HADDOCK \$21

CHICKEN MARSALA \$18

DESSERTS \$6

PROFITEROLE FILLED WITH HOMEMADE ICE CREAM

& DRAPED IN CHOCOLATE GANACHE

CHEESECAKE WITH RASPBERRY COULIS

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DINING ROOM & BISTRO RE-OPENING FOR THE SEASON DECEMBER 19TH

MAKE YOUR NEW YEARS

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ENTERTAINMENT IN THE PUB

THUR. DEC 18 • 9PM:

HOOT NITE

W/DENNY BREAU

FRI. DEC. 19 • 8PM:

BRAD HOOPER

SAT. DEC. 20 • 8PM:

MITCH ALDEN

SUN. DEC. 21 • 8PM:

MITCH ALDEN

WED. DEC. 31 • 8PM:

NEW YEAR'S EVE

WITH BRAD HOOPER

THUR. JAN 1 • 9PM:

HOOT NITE

W/DENNY BREAU

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK AT 11:30 AM

207-824-2174

Oxford County officials cleared in unofficial Albany review

BY CHRISTOPHER CROSBY, SUN MEDIA WIRE

An Albany Township resident who requested county officials clarify why taxes spiked dramatically said he's satisfied those funds were properly awarded for construction projects.

Oxford County officials opened up the government's financial records for inspection over concerns from an Albany Township resident it had improperly given companies publicly funded work.

In a meeting Thursday morning with Oxford County Administrator Scott Cole and road agent Todd Sawyer, longtime lawyer and Albany Township resident Jeffrey Rosenblatt said he was confident public officials showed due diligence when they devised a master plan to upgrade 56 miles of road in the unorganized territory.

The work saw capital improvement expenditures soar \$300,000 in a single year, with taxes rising 17 percent. Coupled with state increases, total taxes in the UTs grew about 35 percent in one year, which was wildly unpopular with residents, who Rosenblatt said could ill afford a rate hike. "It came as a shock," Rosenblatt said.

In what county officials treated as a Freedom of Access Act request, Thursday's inspection, which amounted to a detailed conversation with little auditing of the county's books, gave a blow-by-blow account of how officials plan, solicit and award work for the unorganized territories. UTs have no local municipal government and rely upon the county to provide basic services such

as road repair, plowing and levying property taxes. Cole said he was more than happy to comply with the request.

"We want it vetted; we want it aired. There's nothing to hide here," Cole said.

Though in dire need, Cole said repairs in the territory were underfunded for years. The combination created an "unacceptable" scenario, in which certain stretches of road could not be plowed because inadequate drainage had contoured the road surface.

In other cases, neglected bridges caved in and posed a threat to public safety. Yet, Sawyer explained, laying a new road foundation and then paving made little fiscal sense if ditching wasn't completed around the same time, as pooling water would eventually wash away the work.

An explanation for the costs also prompted criticism of how county officials award contracts.

According to Cole, the county directly advertises and directly mails companies in the UT when it is opening up bidding for summer and winter road maintenance. Approximately eight responded.

After choosing the bids, those companies serve as the de facto municipal road crew for the county which, unlike many towns, does not run its own road works crew funded through a municipal budget every year. It also contracts towns with road crews such as Andover to plow stretches otherwise deemed too costly.

This means not every repair job is bid out. For instance, Sawyer pointed to a bridge in northern Albany that the county closed after reviewing a state

safety assessments.

After an analysis, Sawyer said he found the cheapest way to repair it was to lay thick, wide hemlock beams, which it sourced from the state's only supplier in Belgrade.

The project cost around \$7,500. Though county officials shopped for the cheapest quote, Sawyer said they did not put the project out for independent bidding.

According to Rosenblatt, projects such as those should have gone out to bid, as the Legislature requires entities spending public funds—in this case, the county—to conduct a thorough bidding process for all nonemergency projects above \$2,500. The process is supposed to ensure fairness in awarding public money to private companies by advertising the project is open, listing a pre-bid meeting and issuing a deadline.

Cole disagreed with some of Rosenblatt's interpretation, saying the original act of soliciting bids in three-year blocks constituted a competitive bidding process.

"We believe we're meeting the spirit of the law," he said.

As a comparison, in Aroostook County, where the county government oversees more than 50 miles of roads in the winter for its unorganized territories, Public Works Director Paul Bernier also contracts services in three-year blocks, which he said cuts down on the expense and hassle of soliciting bids on an annual basis.

"It's a clean way of doing it. It helps me in my budget cycles. I know what to expect," Bernier said.

Rosenblatt, who has acted as a liaison for residents in the sparsely populated township, said he was convinced the county acted with deference to its taxpayers, though he implored Cole to make changes in how the county discloses information and to reassess whether the repair schedule could be ramped down to ease the burden on taxpayers.

"For some of those people, \$100 to \$200 is a brutal requirement to meet," he said.

Telstar

Continued from page 1

the fall semester and shared some of the outcomes.

Students and staff worked together to come up with project ideas, ranging from a wind turbine activity to a documentary of the history of communications, incorporating the story of Andover's Telstar satellite project.

They also studied the nature and uses of water and conducted water-testing experiments. An integrated math and history lesson demonstrated the connection between U.S. population growth and the country's health and economics.

"Our basic, overall theme is 'being part of a whole and making a difference in the world,'" Bennett told directors.

Students will investigate community systems and what it means to be a part of a community, beginning with a small family unit and expanding outward to one's school, town, and the larger world.

"We will explore how everyone can have an impact on larger systems," Bennett said.

THS Dean of Students Cheryl Lang shared an overview of the project-based learning that is central to the Telstar Freshmen Academy program. She said projects are

student-driven and designed to tap into students' curiosity, requiring them to be self-directed and encouraging them to seek answers from a variety of sources, including community partners and experts as well as academic research.

Project-based activities throughout the year will integrate learning in all subject areas and will be designed to align with curriculum content standards.

THS Principal Ann Bell explained changes that have been made to the structure of the program, in response to input from students, parents, and staff since the collaboration was announced last summer.

For example, she said, students had expressed reluctance to be away from Telstar for lunch, because it is an important social time when they interact with members of other classes, and the schedule was changed to address those concerns.

"We don't want them to feel separated from Telstar; we want them to feel part of it," Bell said.

THS social studies teacher David LeClerc is the advisor to the news production team. The video is available on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUOSwu3TQCU or can be easily found by searching Google for "Telstar News Pilot."

On Fridays, ninth graders

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Thomas indicted on manslaughter charges in fatal Bethel crash

BY CHRISTOPHER CROSBY, SUN MEDIA WIRE

ing motorcyclist as he was turning onto Sunday River Road.

According to Sun Journal accounts at the time, Timothy Daigle, 43, of New Boston, N.H., was driving west on Route 2 when Thomas failed to yield to the oncoming motorcycle, striking it.

Daigle died at the scene. Patricia Ensign, a passenger on the motorcycle, was transported to Rumford Hospital and was later flown to Central Maine Medical Center.

Thomas' blood alcohol content was .08 at the time, according to the indictment. Both Thomas and his wife, Alison Smith, 49, were also taken to the hospital.

Thomas has not been arrested and is expected to be issued a summons. A court date was not known.

Woodstock to pay for half of unwanted work

BY KEN BRIGGS

The vote came after a discussion on possible court costs, lawyer fees and reports from several other towns that Manzer had done the same to them, according to Maxfield.

"Setting all this aside, this is the best decision for the taxpayers," said Selectman Ronald Deegan.

Maxfield also reported that work will be started on the new grader on Jan. 16 and that no bids were received for the old one. The town is attempting to sell the functioning but ancient grader parked by

the town office building. It was put to use last week scraping ice off the Gore Road.

The new ladder truck has received all needed repairs and certificates.

Maxfield reported there are 16 tax foreclosures coming up, down from 29. Four are already owned by the town and will have to be dealt with this spring.

Letters will be sent to residents on how the new system will work.

There will shortly be two bright green signs pointing the way to the transfer station.

Town News

Bethel

By Nancy Brown



Bethel's Living Nativity will take place on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 5 p.m. on the Bethel

Common. This is the 50th anniversary of the first Living Nativity, which was under the direction of Miss Sue Farrar. Along with hundreds of others, I attended that first production and watched it later on television. I was a student at Crescent Park School

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them and remember that students made giant stars that lined the roads leading to the Common. Local residents have always built the stable and fence, portrayed the characters, sung in the chorus, and provided the cows, goats, and sheep who have gathered near the stable. Every year there is speculation about what family and newborn baby will portray the Holy Family. Even if you don't celebrate Christmas, this is a fun community event. The Common is beautifully decorated for the holidays and this year the three churches in the village will ring their church bells just before 5 p.m. to announce the Living Nativity. Sunday is Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year. It will be cold on the Common. Wear your long underwear, boots, mittens, and hats.

Following the Living Nativity, Christmas refreshments will be served at the Moses Mason House. I finally got out my snowshoes this weekend and made a short trip through the woods to find a Christmas tree. I followed the deer tracks; they've been coming

to the brook to drink. The snow in the woods is not very deep and I found I had to stay on familiar trails and roadways to avoid the danger of falling through brush or downed tree limbs hidden by the snow. Also, the streams, brooks, and ponds are not frozen yet.

The town of Bethel did a great job this past weekend clearing the streets and sidewalks in town and putting down sand on the sidewalks. I am both a driver and a pedestrian and I know in the winter it is sometimes a huge temptation to walk in the road if the sidewalks are icy. But please be careful on the roads if you are walking. Drivers cannot always see you or always stop on the ice and snow. Try to use the sidewalks.

What is the best holiday gift this year? The price of gas. Gas prices are about 62 cents less a gallon this year than last. Gas prices in the Bethel area are ranging from \$2.64 to \$2.79 a gallon for regular unleaded.

If you have news to share, please e-mail me at nancy1950@gmail.com, or call me at 824-2483.

East Bethel

By Wally Ritz



The count down to Christmas is on and most are in the midst of preparations. We will keep it simple and I in particular will celebrate the true meaning. Last year I spent Christmas in the hospital so am grateful to spend it with family.

Heather Zimmerman is still in Uganda. Her parents Lynn and Roger will take turns going to visit her during 2015. Happy Hanukkah to you and we are looking forward to hear about the visits.

Bettyann and Sonny Hastings are excited as all the family is coming, including the Franklins all the way from Texas, to spend Christmas together.

Here is the new Trivia question: Who said, "Shoes or no shoes I will shout! Glory Hallelujah! Amen!"

It occurred to me that we ought to start thinking about a theme for the "cabin fever buster." So do include this in the list of reasons to call me at 507-1008 or e-mail heinrichcracker@gmail.com. Naturally, visitors are always welcome at the InnSide Shop also. We are offering 20 percent off and ask folks to "round up" with proceeds going to the Food Pantry.

Have a great week.

Andover

By Jane C. Rich



The Snow-Valley Sno-Goers announce that their trails are open and ready for riders and that the next club meeting is scheduled for Jan. 7, 6 p.m. at the clubhouse.

Town Clerk, Melinda Averill has announced that nomination papers for the following town officials will be available at the Town Office starting Dec. 30: Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Road Commissioner, Fire Chief and Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor. Also to be elected are three Andover School Department Representatives to establish a three-year election cycle. There is a one year, two year and three year term available.

Citizens are reminded to license their dogs by the end of December, unless they need a rabies shot, which can then be done at the Rabies Clinic on Saturday, Jan. 10 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Fire Station. Bring proof of spaying or neutering.

The Town Office hours for Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 will be changed. On the 24th hours will be 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on the 31st 8 to 11 a.m. Early closure on the 31st will give the staff time to close out accounts for 2014.

On Saturday afternoon a group of Christmas Carolers sponsored by the Calvary Bible Church arrived at my house. The group and I sang two carols and closed a very enjoyable time by the singing of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas." Thank you for brightening up my day.

Last week I wrote that Scott Farrington hoped to have the skating rink open. Well, we all know in warmed up and rained, but Scott is still endeavoring to get the rink up and running or should I say up and skating. Check behind the Fire Station to see if conditions warrant strapping on those skates.

Christmas Baskets and children's gifts from the Andover Food Pantry will have been distributed by the time you read this. Remember the pantry will be

FREE SEASON PASS w/ purchase of a complete Ski Pkg.
Pkg's
from **269.00**
Back Country Pkg's
from **399.00**
Carter's XC Ski Shop • Rt. 26 Oxford • 539-4848

closed the weeks of Christmas and New Year's and reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 6. There will be a food delivery from the Good Shepherd Food Bank on Monday, Jan. 5. So if you have some free time around 8:30 a.m. that day, please come help them unload and stack shelves. The pantry wishes to thank the general public of Andover for their great support of the yellow star program which will make a lot of children happy on Christmas morning.

A Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at the First Congregational Church at 7 p.m. followed by a reception. This will be my 23rd and last Christmas Service as Pastor, so it will be a very sentimental evening for me and, I hope, for all of you who have been there for part or all of those services. The choir has been rehearsing diligently two beautiful pieces of music to add to your Christmas Eve festivities. Come and share with us.

Gilead

By Lin Chapman



The weatherman promised that the sun would be visible this past Sunday, but I think it showed up for about an hour or so. Not quite enough to really count.

My brother, Steve McLain, was at the house last weekend. He said that he enjoyed the newsletter from the Gilead Historical Society.

I forgot to put in the column that Steve and Lise McLain attended the Wares Fare at the Bethel Inn Conference Center. They attend every year to check out what the local crafters have to offer.

Hugh and I went to the Transfer Station last Saturday. We saw Bill Broomhall while we were down there. He said that he had an item for the column. He told us the story about the deer that he had just got during muzzle loader season. He had been tracking this big buck during hunting season for the past couple of years and it finally appeared where he was able to shoot it. It turned out that it was a ten point buck and weighed 168.5 pounds with a 6 inch drop tine.

Town Office

The Town Office closed early on Tuesday, Dec. 9 due to the bad weather.

Reminder: Dog licenses are due by Dec. 31. There is a rabies clinic at the Bethel Fire Station on Dec. 20 from 2 to 4 p.m. The fee is \$15 and is payable in cash only.

Reminder: Interest on Real Estate Taxes will be charged on payments made after Dec. 16. Real Estate Taxes need to be paid before Dec. 31 or they will be listed as unpaid taxes in the Annual Town Report.

The Town Clerk will not be in the office on Tuesday, Dec. 30.

Gilead Historical Society

The GHS is pleased to announce that the Sunday River Charitable Fund of the Maine Community Foundation has awarded a grant to the GHS. The grant is in the amount of \$3,000 and will be used to continue the renovations on the two historic buildings (1851 Railroad Station and 1903 Village Schoolhouse). The GHS is very pleased and thankful for their generosity.

This grant will be the second one received this year.

Recently, the GHS received a grant from L.L. Bean Charitable Giving Fund.

When L.L. Bean traveled to his camp, the Dew Drop Inn, in the Wild River Valley, he would have gotten off the train in Gilead at the railroad station that is now

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Sports



High School Boys' JV Basketball

Telstar 66, Mt. Abram 37; Dec. 8 - The J.V. Rebels gave an excellent effort versus the Roadrunners of Mt. Abram last Monday. The contest was close early on but the Rebels pulled away in the second half. Jeremiah Richardson had a monster game pouring in 29 points. Zach Stone chipped in with 9, and Blake Rothwell had 15.

Dirigo 55, Telstar 47; Dec. 12 - The J.V. boys lost a closely contested game against the Cougars of Dirigo on Friday night. It was a four point game at the end of three quarters, but the Cougars pulled away in the fourth. Blake Rothwell led the Rebels with 17 points, Sammy Drew chipped in with 9, Zach Stone and Tanner Wheeler both scored 7.

Telstar vs. Boothbay; Dec. 15 - The J.V. Rebels lost to the Seahawks of Boothbay on Monday night. The Seahawks used a deep bench and solid passing to pull out to an early lead on the Rebels and never looked back. The boys fought hard throughout the contest but simply couldn't make enough shots to cut into the lead. Blake Rothwell led the Rebels effort with 9 points, Tanner Wheeler and Sammy drew both contributed 8 points.

Mountain Valley Rec Basketball League

Neptune Contracting started their season off as an improved team compared to past seasons, but was no match for Champions, Ranor Mechanical. After a 1st week bye, Neptune (0-1) looked to start on a strong note, but a short-handed Ranor was too disciplined and pulled away in the second half for an 88-75 victory. Ranor (2-0) got a big game from Craig Milledge with 27 points, mostly on drives to the basket. Kevin Gallant and Aaron St. Pierre were good from the perimeter and finished with 22 each, while Scot New contributed 13. Neptune was led by Mike Leclerc with 19 points, Big Matt Lyons had 16, Gary Holman 11, Jesse Cross and TJ Frost had 10 each.

Archie's then got a huge performance from Cody St. Germain (56 points) and thumped Jay, 98-70. Archie's (1-1) was supported by Whitey Moulton with 15 points, all from behind the arc. Jay (0-2) was led by Dave St. Germain with 25 points and Eric Germelli with 11.

Laid Back Installers dominated the last game from the start and blew out Bethel, 108-58. LBI (2-0) had 6 players in double figures, Chris Baxter with 29 points, Owen Jones and Jon Benjamin with 20 each, Eric Canwell with 16, Brian Canwell with 11 and Rev. Dave Wilhoyte with 10. Bethel (0-2) was led by Captain Ryan Kimball with 16 points, Kevin Bean with 14 and Ryan Savage with 12.

Matterhorn Restaurant (1-0) was off with a bye, but will be tested in the first game this Sunday as they take on Ranor at 10 a.m. LBI will then face Neptune at 11:30 and Bethel and Archie's play at 1 p.m., while Jay takes the week off.



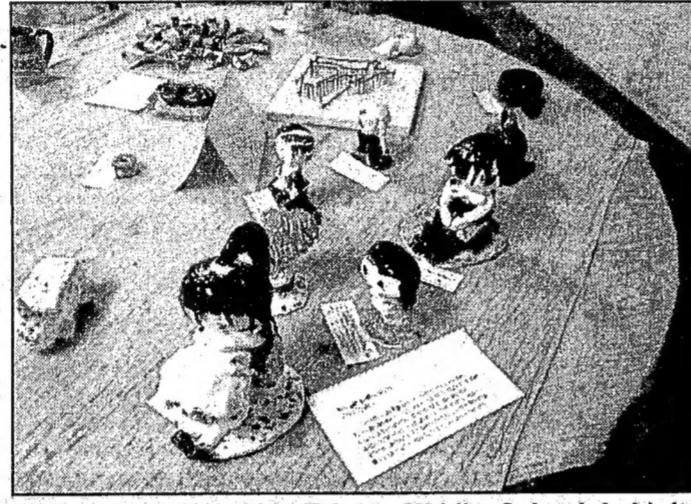
CHRISTMAS FOR CHILDREN CONTRIBUTION-Rooster's Roadhouse owner Steve Etheridge recently presented a check to Club president Ellie Andrews for \$2,500 for Rotary's Christmas for Children.

Submitted photo

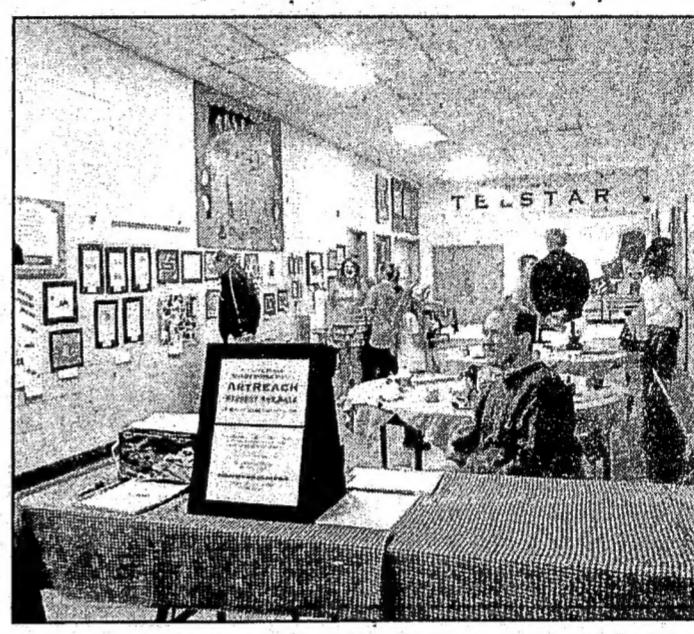


SNARED-Telstar's Cameron Pike pulls in a rebound during Monday's game against Boothbay. The undefeated Seahawks won, 86-44. The Rebels' top scorer was Mike Dougherty with 18 points. Pike had 11 and Jeremiah Richardson 10.

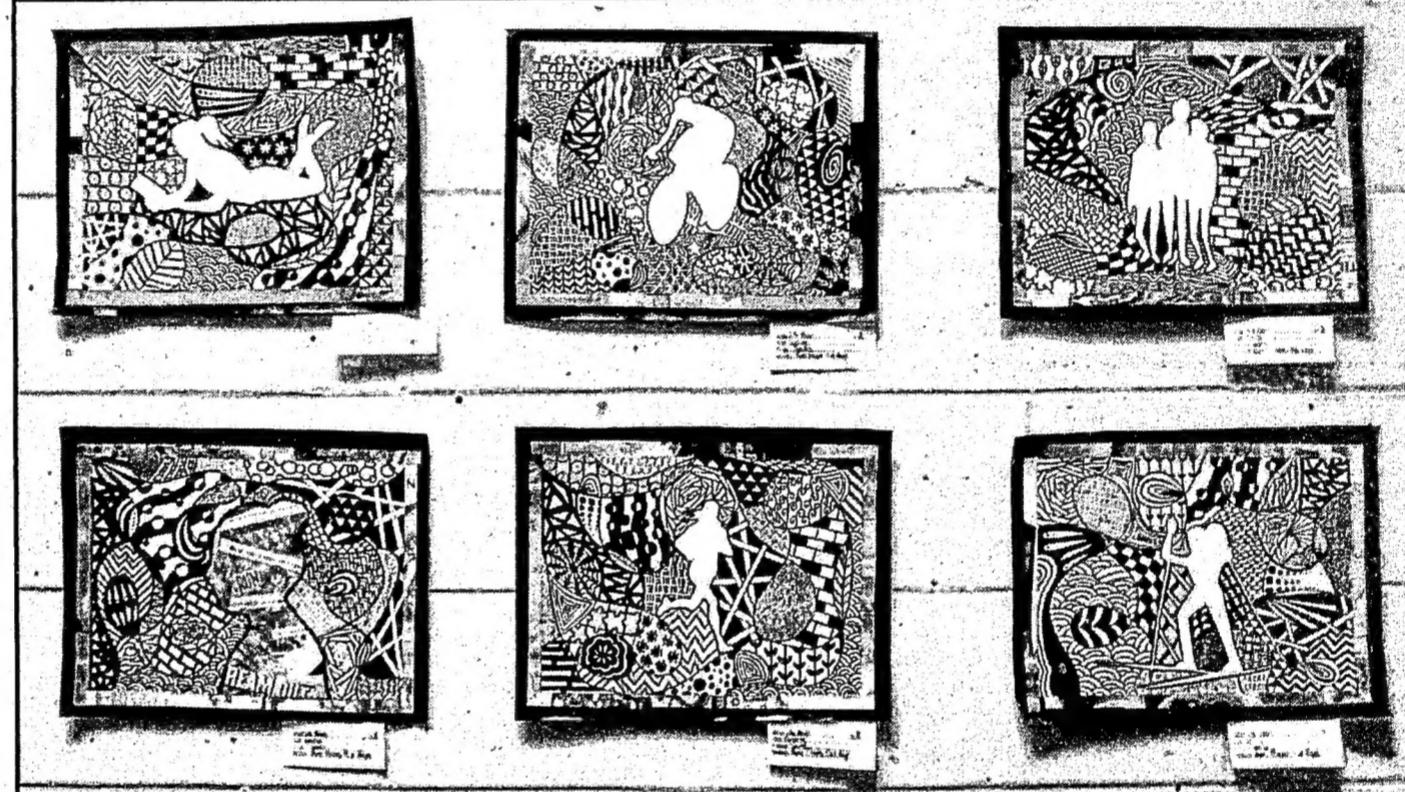
A. Aloisio



TMS ARTREACH 2014-Telstar Middle School held its annual ArtReach program last week. Artworks this year were created by TMS Advanced Art students to show their "Sparks," or passions. The figurines in the foreground of this photo were created by Morgan Lamontagne to show her spark for Chibi-style Anime artwork. Submitted photos



Student visual art exhibit and sale.. Submitted photos



Artworks by Lilo Bean. Submitted photos



Meet:

Jeannette Andrews, DO, FACOG - OB/Gyn

Dr. Andrews received her medical degree at the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine and completed her obstetrics and gynecology residency training at the Uniformed Services University in Maryland. Dr. Andrews joins an exceptional team of doctors in providing comprehensive care to our patients.

Stephens Memorial Hospital is proud to welcome seven new doctors to the Stephens Memorial Hospital Medical Staff. Welcome to our team.

Western Maine Family Practice
Denise Cogle, DO

Laura LaRosa (Finocchio), MD
Lisa Miller, MD
Allan Reis, MD

Oxford Hills Family Practice

James Eshleman, DO
Adam Kazimierczak, DO

Oxford Hills Internal Medicine

Peter Harbage, MD, FACP.
Inga Johannesson, DO
Francis Kieliszak, MD, FACP
David Kumaki, MD, FACP
William Medd, MD, FACP
Brian Nolan, MD, FACP
Sarah Wilson, MD

Western Maine Pediatrics

Sam Adler, MD
Kathleen Herlihy, MD
Jennifer Sunday, DO
Danielle Tran, MD
Sarah Wilson, MD

Western Maine OB/Gyn

Jeannette Andrews, DO, FACOG
Carolyn Costanzi, MD, FACOG
Gregory Hardy, MD, FACOG

*New doctors are displayed in bold print.

Western Maine Surgery

Robert Kahn, MD, FACS
Brady Mullin, MD
Robert Neilson, DO
Alyssa Paetau, MD, FACS

Emergency Services

Rebecca Chagrasulis, MD
Russell D. Florenz, DO
James Gallea, MD
Thomas J. Hewson, MD
Matthew Kerr, MD
Michael Mohseni, MD
Tobin M. Piker, MD
John H. Simmons, DO
Albert Sledge, MD
Luke Wood, DO

Hospitalist Medicine

Clifford Berg, MD
G. Sean Callender, MD
Benjamin Cowan, MD
Christina DeMatteo, DO



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MAHOOSUC KIDS



Enrichment opportunities for the children in SAD #44

From the Director

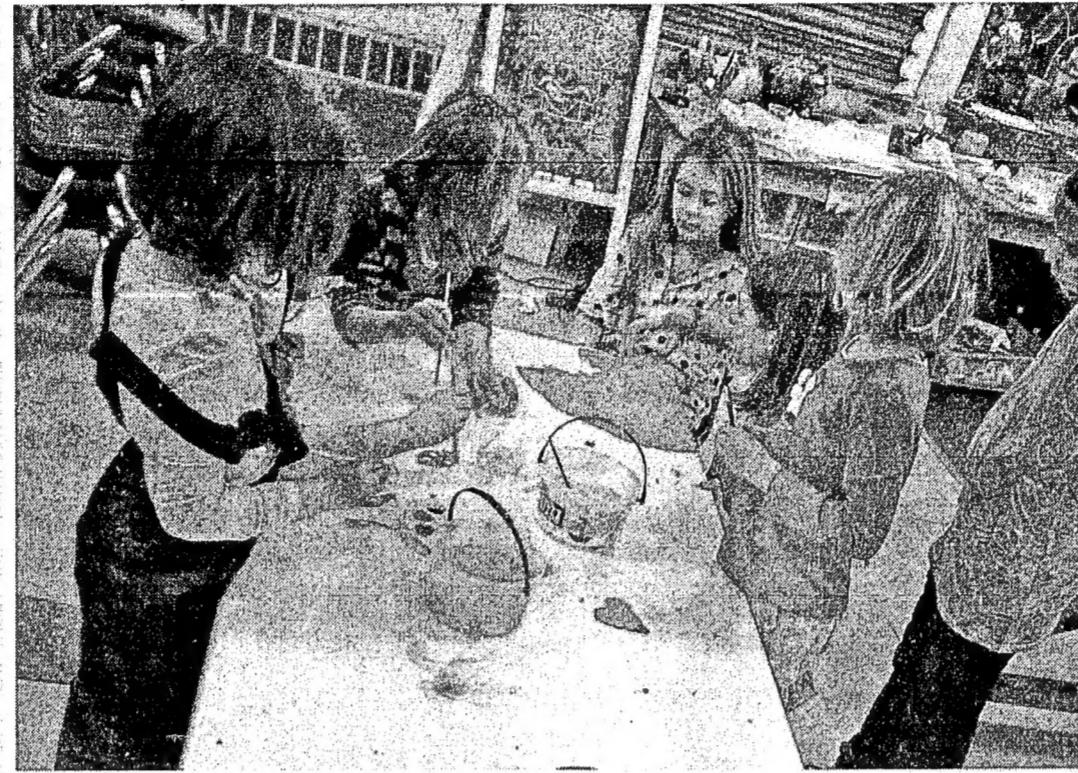
Wow, it is hard to believe we are at school vacation time already. Our kids have been busy doing some community based events. All four of our sites made the table decorations for the THS Senior Citizens Dinner. We also have filled food boxes at the food pantry and decorated the CPS tree!

Congratulations to the MKA "Brickmasters" Lego team that competed last weekend in Augusta with 70 teams and over 600 kids! Coach Marie Keane said the team did an awesome job in the teamwork, technical, and tabletop presentations. Pictures to follow!

After vacation, we will be adding yoga, drama, and another session of sewing at CPS. In Woodstock we are excited about the hometown skiing program starting up.

Everyone at MKA would like to wish our families a wonderful holiday and great vacation! Have fun.

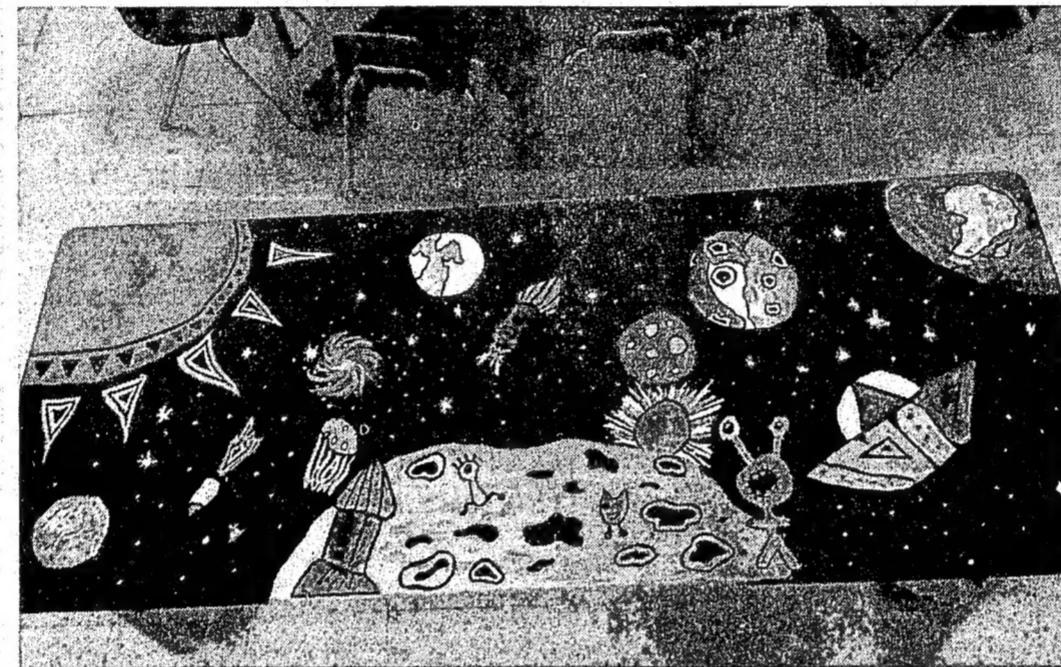
*Julie Hart,
MKA Director*



MKA members working on painting a space-themed table!



Charlotte Lambert happy to be working on a Mandala for this month's Art Gallery Challenge.



The MKA space-themed table!



Boden Cyr and Ryder Bailey playing in the snow.



TMS students making holiday chocolate & peanut butter fudge with Payton, Romeo and Meagan

Amanda Jordan's Kids Create Theater Company partnered with the Woodstock Mahoosuc Kids, proudly presents...Monologues, followed by "Cinderella."



Cinderella, played by Karen Marshall, and her Stepsisters, played by Madisyn Bean, Megan Millett, and Nyla Scott.



Cinderella's Stepmother, played by Bonnie Marshall, tells Cinderella she cannot go to the ball.



Cinderella, and her Fairy Godmother, who was played by Gabrielle Groves.



Cinderella's Stepsisters and Stepmother surround the Prince, who was played by Matthew Bean.



Jordan Berry working on her Mandala.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

District Exchange; Bethel Park, 23 Mason Street, Bethel. Hours: Monday 1 to 4 p.m., Thursday 4 to 6 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Donations of gently-used clothing only accepted during open hours - No exceptions. FMI: 824-4090. Clothing may also be left at Northeast Bank, Main Street, Bethel Monday through Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Bethel Area Food Pantry; serving the residents of Albany, Andover, Bethel, East Bethel, West Bethel, Bryant Pond, Gilead, Greenwood, Hanover, Locke's Mills, Mason Township, Newry, Upton and Woodstock. The Food Pantry is open on the second Monday of each month from noon to 8 p.m. Anyone in need of food should come during those hours, without appointment. The Food pantry is located in the basement of the Nazarene Church, 16 Church Street, Bethel, by the side entrance on Park Street.

Art Exhibit; "Images of the North Maine Woods," by Michael Everett, depicting river-level views of the Allagash and St. John Rivers, will be on display at the West Paris Library on 226 Main Street until the end of December. Hours: Monday and Friday 1:30 to 6 p.m., Wednesday 1:30 to 7 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. FMI: 674-2004.

Thursday, Dec. 18

Outdoor Center Opening; Skiway Road, Newry.

Managing Employees Roundtable; 8 to 9 a.m. (Coffee available at 7:45), Norway Town Office, 19 Danforth Street, Norway. Presenter: Erica Douglass, Director of HR at Maine Machine Products Co. and Hoppe Technologies. FMI/Registration: SCORE (743-0499), steven.veasey@scorevolunteer.org or <http://conta.cclvQHwBA>.

Knitting and Crocheting Class with Support from Fiber & Vine; 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., SMH Cancer Center, 199 Main Street, Norway. SMH Cancer Center invites patients with cancer, cancer survivors, and caregivers to join in with some volunteers from Fiber and Vine. Bring your ongoing knit and crochet projects and /or learn to make chemo caps and prayer shawls. If needed we will provide some yarn and needles at no cost to you. This is a free class for patients with cancer, cancer survivors, and caregivers.

Friday, Dec. 19

Gould Yulefest Concert; 4 p.m., Bingham Hall Auditorium, Gould Academy, Church Street, Bethel. Performances by the Gould Academy Band and Chorus. Admission is free.

Las Posadas; 7 p.m., St. Kieran Community Center for the Arts, 155 Emery Street, Berlin, N.H. An original operetta based on Tomie DePaola's "The Night of Las Posadas." FMI: www.stkieranarts.org.

Saturday, Dec. 20

Horse Drawn Wagon Rides; 1 to 3 p.m., sponsored by Bethel Shop 'N Save. Meet at the north end of the town common near the Chapman Inn for rides through historic Bethel village.

Shadagee Ramblers Christmas Dance; 7 to 10 p.m. (doors open at 6), Jackson-Silver Post 68 American Legion, 595 Gore Road, Locke's

Mills. Admission: \$7. 50/50, Door Prizes, Refreshments.

Jones Dance Band; 7 to 10 p.m., Legion Hall, Church Street, South Paris. Adults/\$5. Playing old-fashioned dance music.

Sunday, Dec. 21

Living Nativity; 5 p.m., Bethel Common. Please join us as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Living Nativity. It will be followed by a time of sharing Christmas refreshments at the Moses Mason House. Call 207-824-2289 for more information.

Candlelight and Carols Service; 7 p.m., West Bethel Union Church.

Monday, Dec. 22

Celebration Party; 1 to 3 p.m., Harper Conference Center, 193 Main Street, Norway. SMH Cancer Center Staff invites patients with cancer, cancer survivors, and caregivers to come to our celebration party. The celebration party is only limited by one's imagination. This is an uplifting gathering to honor celebrating LIFE! It is also a way for you to connect with each other, share your memories that bring about laughter and fun. Come join us and celebrate the miracles of life and be surrounded by people who care and love as much as you do.

SeniorsPlus; 1 to 4 p.m., Fryeburg Public Library. Representatives from SeniorsPlus, the Area Agency on Aging, will be on hand to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Free and open to the public. FMI/appointments: 1-800-427-1241.

Wednesday, Dec. 24

Christmas Eve Services; West Parish Congregational Church, 32 Church Street, Bethel. 4 p.m., A family service with the bell choir. 7 p.m., A candlelight service of readings and carols. FMI: www.bethelcongregational-church.org, westparishucc.org or 824-2689.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service; 7 p.m., the Bethel Alliance Church, 251 Walkers Mills Road (across from Telstar parking lot). Call 207-824-2289 for more info.

Saturday, Dec. 27

Jones Dance Band; 7 to 10 p.m., Legion Hall, Church Street, South Paris. Adults/\$5. Playing old-fashioned dance music.

Hoopalula's Fire Gaia; 7:15 and 8:15 p.m., Slopeside at South Ridge Lodge, Sunday River. Hoopalula takes "hooping" to the next level by adding fire to their performances! Firedancing adds exceptional flair and provides sizzling entertainment that will leave you raving for more. FMI: Sundayriver.com.

Fireworks Display; 8:30 p.m., South Ridge Lodge/Foggy Goggle, Sunday River.

Monday, Dec. 29

Family Peak Dinner with Eddy the Yeti; 6 p.m., Sunday River's Peak Lodge. Ride the Chondola to Sunday River's mid-mountain Peak Lodge for a special family dinner with Eddy the Yeti and his friend Betty. Eddy and Betty will be there to greet everyone, followed by a reading from the Eddy the Yeti book. The dinner is buffet-style with kid favorites including pizza and macaroni & cheese. FMI/Reservations: 1-800-543-2754.

Tuesday, Dec. 30

G-Force Laser Tag; Grand Summit Ho-

tel, Sunday River. The Grand Summit Ballroom will be filled with inflatable obstacles, black lights, and, of course, some killer tunes, while two 15-person teams do battle. Reservations are highly recommended. \$5 per game. This event is fun for all ages! Children under 5 will require parental supervision. Tickets are available at the door or in advance at hotel front desks, the South Ridge Welcome Center, or by calling 800-543-2754.

Wednesday, Dec. 31

Jones Dance Band New Year Dance; 8 p.m. to midnight, Legion Hall, Church Street, South Paris. \$20 per person (includes refreshments and dance). Door prizes, 50/50. No reservations.

Fireworks Display; 8:30 p.m., South Ridge Lodge/Foggy Goggle, Sunday River.

Mt. Abram New Year's Eve Party and Fireworks; Live music in the Loose Boots Lounge and a fireworks display at 9:30 p.m. FMI: 875-5000 or www.SkiMtAbram.com.

Thursday, Jan. 1

Bethel Senior Citizens Luncheon Reservation Deadline; See Jan. 14 listing for details.

30th Annual Carter's Last Stand Nordic Day; The full schedule of events includes the choice of an interpretive snowshoe tour with a forest biologist, uphill Nordic ski climb to the top of Farwell Mountain, guided cross-country ski tour along the Androscoggin River or a kids' x-country ski and snowshoe activity. \$25/adults, \$15/juniors (6-18), free/ages 5 and under. FMI/Reservations: 539-4848.

Wednesday, Jan. 7

Snow Valley Sno-Goers Meeting; 6 p.m. at the clubhouse off Route 5 in Andover.

FAFSA Evening Featuring Kathy Ruby; 7 to 8:30 p.m., Telstar lecture hall. There will be pizza and a chance for families to win a gift sponsored by the Melmac educational grant. Please call Lori Lindsay at 824-2136 extension 311 with any questions.

Friday, Jan. 9

Fireworks Display; 8:30 p.m., South Ridge Lodge/Foggy Goggle, Sunday River.

Saturday, Jan. 10

Rabies Clinic; 2 to 4 p.m., Andover Fire Station. \$15, cash only.

Monday, Jan. 12

Essentials of College Planning for adults 19 and over; 10 a.m., Western Maine University and Community College Center, South Paris. FMI/Registration: 1-800-281-3703 or <http://meoc.maine.edu>. Free and open to the public.

Wednesday, Jan. 14

Bethel Senior Citizens Luncheon (Rescheduled from Dec. 10); 11 a.m., the Bethel Inn. Menu: Turkey or haddock. Reservations must be made before Jan. 1 by calling Arlene Lowell at 824-2877 with your choice.

Monday, Jan. 26

Essentials of College Planning for adults 19 and over; 10 a.m., Western Maine University and Community College Center, South Paris. FMI/Registration: 1-800-281-3703 or <http://meoc.maine.edu>. Free and open to the public.

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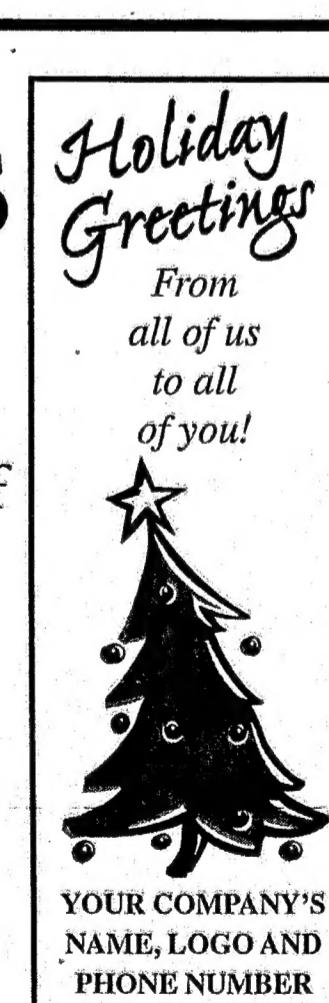
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Backyard Reflections

BY SARA WRIGHT

About 10 years ago I planted my second favorite tree (apples/crabapples are the other), a small northern white cedar in front of the house. Everyone should plant at least one tree to act as a "Guardian for the "powers of place," I thought, and this one was mine. I knew that for many Native peoples cedar was sacred. The Ojibwa called her "Grandmother Cedar"; she was one of their four sacred plants and she represented the direction of North. Her medicine purified the air, healed respiratory ailments, and was used as an insect repellent, all qualities that today's scientific community will endorse as truth. For example, we know that cedar "purifies" as it puts negative ions back into the air. Negative ions are charged particles found in high density at the beach, in undisturbed forest, under waterfalls, during lightning storms, and in the earth naturally. These days we are pelted by too many positive ions from atmospheric pollutants, from electrical equipment (including our computer screens) and from heating systems to name a few; all of which affect our moods and behavior creating lethargy and depression. Burning twigs of dried cedar especially during the winter will help restore the resulting imbalance of ions in the air. I burn both cedar and balsam (which has the same purifying quality) on my woodstove in the winter.

I pay particular attention to Ojibwa traditions because like the Cree

these eastern cultures remain intact; they were not decimated by the European invasion because these tribes lived further north inhabiting the remote Great Lakes region and Canada. (In Maine, for example all Native peoples were wiped out and their original traditions have been lost). Not surprisingly cedar is a plant that is used by many Native Americans throughout the continent. The Hopi even have a Cedar Clan but the western varieties of cedar, although still part of the same genus, *Thuja*, are a different species. Most confusing, both these species belong to the cypress family and are not true cedars!

My *Thuja* was little more than a seedling when I dug her into the ground. I knew that these were slow growing but long-lived trees, some reaching the age of a thousand years or more. They will grow in a variety of organic soils but prefer moist nutrient rich lowlands near streams or calcareous mineral soils. When growing on limestone cliff edges they get all the nutrients they need from water and rock. Cedar can also form pure stands in old fields and pastures in Maine like the small copse on the northern edge of my property. Some grow in swamps; frequently cedar can be found growing with hemlock, balsam, spruce, white pine and tamarack trees (as they do on my land), and when the stands are not dense they have an undergrowth composed of shrubs and herbs. Male and female flowers of northern white cedar are

borne on separate twigs, followed by flowery clusters of tiny cinnamon colored cones that ripen by mid-August. Seed production usually begins when the trees are 30 years of age but doesn't occur in abundance until the tree is about 75 and even then seed crops are cyclic occurring every two to five years. Both shoot and radial growth begin in May and end in August.

Outbreaks of leaf-miners have severely damaged some white cedar stands in Maine. One amazing property of cedar is that it can send out roots from any part of a branch or stem if there is enough moisture.

In Northern Maine and Michigan swamps "layering" occurs frequently. A cedar will usually grow about three inches during its first few years but seedling mortality is high. Some studies suggest that the abundance of deer browsing on seedlings and saplings (due to an artificially inflated deer population) and slash from deforestation will soon put cedar at risk. In undisturbed areas seedbeds of decaying logs and stumps account for more than 70 percent of the seedlings that germinate. After the seedling stage northern cedar loses its taproot and develops a shallow wide-spreading root system.

In folklore trees are often said to be the home of tree spirits, and I am certain I have some benevolent tree spirit living in my cedar. If I simply brush one of her twigs lightly she communicates with a rush of scent. Sometimes when I walk by I think I hear

her say a word or two, and why not? After all we share more than 50 percent of DNA with plants – and on a microscopic level the pattern of my cedar's lacy twigs mirrors that of my own hands. Interspecies communication has always fascinated me, and I have learned that plants will converse with me mostly in their own language that might include color changes, scent, movement without a breeze, leaning or stretching towards me, or the house, or experiencing a field of light around a particular tree. All I have to do in return is to love and respect these trees, and treat them as relatives/friends.

Many stories reflect a firmly rooted belief in the intimate connection between some trees and humans. Often a personal relationship is established by planting a particular tree as a guardian, or to celebrate the birth of a child/grandchild. Some children also develop intimate relationships with trees as I did with my grandmother's golden apple tree, and my mother's red cedar. Sometimes a person who is tied to a tree dies inexplicably when its tree does. I remind the skeptical reader that this sympathetic relationship between humans and trees has at its core modern day physics.

I don't remember when it occurred to me that my cedar would also be the perfect tree to light when November cast his dark shadows but I often spoke to her as I walked by. I also imagined that she liked the attention because she grew faster than most cedars do. In the winter I covered

her with burlap so the deer couldn't kill her. Last winter she was tall enough (about 12 feet tall) to put tiny white lights on her branches. When I plugged in the lights she shimmered through the ice-covered boughs and literally lit up the night. My breath caught in my throat; she was that beautiful. When the north-wind driven snow came it was heavy and bent her crown and branches over; she looked like an old woman who was carrying too heavy a burden; yet I still marveled at her bowed splendor. The moment she went outside my three-pound puppy Hope went immediately to that tree, as if knowing that she could provide more than simple shelter. All winter my cedar's friendly presence and light comforted me. Her evergreen branches reminded me that one day the seemingly endless season of the Frost King would pass and that spring would once again grace us with her presence. For me this cedar had become a "Tree of Life."

Trees have played a central role in world mythology and religion for thousands of years. The tree with its branches reaching up to the sky, its trunk growing up from the ground, its roots seeking nourishment deep within the earth, weaves together three worlds – heaven, earth, and the underworld. The tree has both feminine and masculine aspects. As comforter she is a feminine symbol, and as masculine he is a protector. The theme of wholeness is intrinsic to the tree. This year when I strung

lights on my cedar in early November I experienced that same sense of wonder even as she wafted her scent towards me...

This has been a wonderful year for winterberry and it occurred to add sprays of scarlet berries in amongst the branches.

The robins and the grouse

came first and then the

female cardinal arrived.

Everyone feasted on the

berries until they were

gone, which delighted

me beyond reason. Once

again I hung the three

dimensional, beveled glass

star from her center that

reflected light from the

waning sun and shone

brilliantly at night. This

year I also added about

twelve hanging crystal

prisms that shimmered

in rainbow colors even

on cloudy days; at night

these turned into crystal

ice.

The rectangular

pieces of glass belonged

to a couple of old crystal

lamps that I had dismantled; they had once belonged to my great grandmother. This simple acknowledgement of family, all of who now live in the great Beyond felt just right. I have yet to string

the crimson cranberries

that will hang from her

boughs to feed hungry

birds.

Most recently (1850's),

the Germanic tradition

of lighting an evergreen

tree has become popular

in Judeo-Christian traditions.

This year when families

and communities

gather to light their

evergreen trees they will

be participating in an

ancient ritual in which

trees are collectively ac-

knowledged as the "Tree of Life," as individual

guardians, wisdom-keep-

ers, even oracles of the di-

vine.

REGULAR EVENTS

MUNICIPAL

Bethel Selectmen: Second Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Town Office.

Bethel Planning Board: Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, 7 p.m., Town Office.

Bethel Water District: Third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., Town Office.

Gilead Selectmen: Second Wednesdays of the month, 6 p.m., Town Office.

Gilead Planning Board: First Thursdays of the month, 7 p.m., Town Office.

Greenwood Selectmen: First and third Tuesdays of the month, 5 p.m., Town Office.

Hanover Selectmen: Third Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m. unless otherwise posted.

Hanover Planning Board: First Wednesday, 6 p.m.

Newry Selectmen: First and third Tuesdays of the month, 5 p.m., Town Office.

Newry Planning Board: First and third Wednesdays of the month, 7 p.m., Town Office.

Woodstock Selectmen: First and third Tuesdays, 5 p.m., Town Office.

Woodstock Planning Board: First and third Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Town Office

SAD 44 School Board: Second Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Telstar High School (occasionally meet at other schools; call 824-2185 for info).

ORGANIZATIONS

Andover

Sundays, 6 p.m. Andover School Withdrawal Committee meets.

Mondays and Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. Andover Fitness Club, Andover Elementary School gym, Bethel

First Sunday of month, 7 p.m. - Bethel Snow Twisters at 208 Walkers Mills Rd.

Third Sunday of each month, 9 a.m. - Breakfast open to the public at no charge at Bethel Church of the Nazarene.

Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. - Bethel Bicycle/Western Maine Velo road cycling rides, departing from Bethel Bicycle. Please call 824-0100 for more information and/or go to our FB page, all rides are posted there.

First Wednesday, 6:30-8 p.m. - Lyme Disease Support & Education Group at Beacon House Peer Center, 3 Canal St. Rumford. FMI: 357-1926 or 824-3076.

Third Wednesday, 6:30-8 p.m. - Lyme Disease Support & Education Group at Telstar High School Library. FMI: 357-1926 or 824-3076.

Last Wednesday of the month, 4:30 to 6 p.m. - Community Supper at Bethel Alliance Church. No charge. FMI: 207-824-2289.

Thursdays, 10 to 11 a.m. - Story Time for Children at Bethel Library (story plus craft) with participating mothers. October thru April. FMI: call 824-2520.

Second Thursday of the month, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; fourth Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Cross Country Quilters of Pine Tree Quilt Guild of Maine meet at the Alliance Church on Route 26 in Bethel. All quilters welcome. FMI: e-mail Pat McCartney at p...@yahoo.com or call 836-2575.

Greenwood.

Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Outdoor Market at Northern Roots Grow Supply, 3 Bird Hill Rd., Greenwood. Vendors welcome at no charge. Until early September.

Woodstock

Second Saturday of month, 6 p.m. - Woodstock Historical Society meeting at the Museum.

Norway/Paris/West Paris

Tuesdays 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. - West Paris Baptist Church group to foster wellness for anyone searching for faith based support. The group is intended for those facing the challenges of grief, loss, addiction, code-

pendency, and abuse issues. Light refreshments will be provided.

Third Wednesday of the month, Women's Imaging Center, Stephens Memorial Hospital, Norway, offering professional prosthetic and bra fittings for women on. For appointment call 743-5993 Ext. 6851.

Second Thursday of the month, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Harper Conference Center, Ripley Medical Office Building, 198 Main Street, Norway. Staying on Your Feet, a free one-time course for adults aged 60 and over. Course includes balance screening, blood pressure check, leg-strength measurement, and education on staying fit.

Fridays 9:15 a.m. - Oxford Hills Duplicate Bridge, Norway. For more information, call Les Buzzell at 763-4153 or 754-9153; or e-mail: buzz116@myfairpoint.net.

Hebron

Sundays 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. - Seasonal Public Skating, Robinson Arena, Hebron. Adults, \$3/Children 12 and under, \$2/WinterKids Passport holders, free. FMI: 966-2100.

Support services

SAFE Voices

Safe Voices serves all of Oxford County and provides emergency shelter, court advocacy and support groups with child care. Rumford office 369-0750; Norway office 743-5806; 24 hour hotline 1-800-559-2927

REACH

Rape Education and Crisis Hotline 1-800-871-7741. Sexual assault/sexual abuse hotline, same number. Support groups and awareness education, past or present victims of abuse.

AA Meetings/Addiction help

Bethel Freedom Group, Open Discussion Meeting, Saturdays at 4:30 in the Snow Cap Inn conference room, next to the fitness room. Sunday River, Seasonal, Thanksgiving through April 1, Big Book Meeting Sundays at 6 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, Main Street. 12 Step/Traditions Meeting Tuesdays at 6 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, Main Street. Candlelight Discussion Meeting Fridays at 6 p.m. at Bethel United Methodist Church, Main Street.

People in recovery from alcohol/drug addiction may need to move to a Next Step group. Open to everyone who feels they may benefit from a change. FMI: Laurence Austin at 824-4077 (calls confidential)

Cancer Wellness

Support and Education for cancer patients, survivors and caregivers. Every Thursday, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Rumford Hospital, Room 357. (877) 336-7287. Call to confirm in stormy weather.

Exchanges/Pantries

Clothing Exchange

Bethel Park, 23 Mason Street, Bethel. Hours: Monday 1 to 4, Thursday 4 to 6, Saturday, 10 to 12. Donations of gently-used clothing only accepted during open hours. No exceptions. 824-4090. Clothing may also be dropped off at Northeast Bank on Main Street.

Food Pantry

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Help for the Homeless

Rumford Group Homes, Inc. operates three homeless shelters, a Maternity Group Home program for

SAD 44 takes part in Lego competition

The LEGO FLL (First LEGO League) competition took place this past Saturday, Dec. 13. SAD 44 had a team from CPS and TMS that went to the competition.

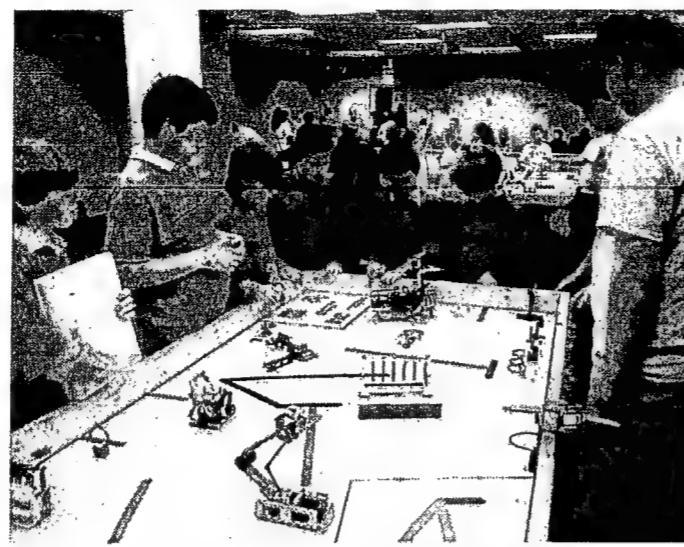
The students did an amazing job. The table top presentation (where we control the robots) was not our best event, however, we nailed the presentation! It was on "How do digital immigrants learn all of the new technology?" A digital immigrant would be someone mostly born before 1960-ish.

They also did a great job in "Teamwork" where they had a problem to solve and they had to build something with LEGOS to show

how to solve the problem and do it without arguments - "Gracious professionalism." They did great! They also had two programs that were noteworthy when we went to see the technical judges. They used the color sensor to follow a red line - took us a while to get that one!

The boys really do deserve a pat on the back even if we did not come home with a trophy. There were over 70 teams there, 600 kids, and we were a novice team, coming to the LEGO competition for the first time except for one boy.

Congratulations! I am so proud of my LEGO team. - Marie Keane



The SAD 44 boys at the competition table show the judges their technical programs and their robot that they built for the competition.

Submitted photo



Representing SAD 44 were, front: Romeo Villaneueva, Ben Godomsky, Harry Connors, Michael James and Eli Shifrin. Back: Reese Rosenberg, Trey Meader, and Tanner Martin Utah Bean and Huntley Blair.

Submitted photo

Your Guide to Area Services

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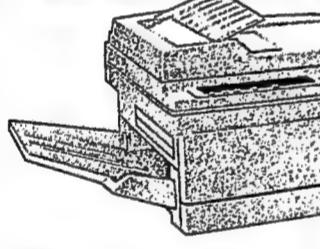
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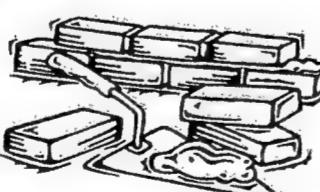
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Toasted Ravioli

9-oz. pkg. refrigerated cheese-filled ravioli
1/2 cup Italian-flavored seasoned dry bread crumbs
1/4 cup milk
1 egg
Garnish:
Grated Parmesan cheese
Warm spaghetti sauce

Cook ravioli in boiling water for 3 minutes. Drain well and cool slightly. Place bread crumbs in a shallow dish. In another shallow dish, beat together milk and egg. Dip ravioli in egg mixture and let excess drip off. Dip in bread crumbs to coat. Place ravioli on a lightly greased baking sheet. Bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes or until crisp and golden. Sprinkle ravioli with Parmesan cheese and serve with warm spaghetti sauce. Makes 8 to 10 servings.

Asian Chicken Wings

4 lbs. chicken wings
1/4 cup olive oil
2 1/2 tsp salt, divided
2 tsp pepper, divided
1/2 cup honey
2 tbsp soy sauce
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
juice of 1 lime
zest of 2 limes
2 cloves garlic, finely minced
1 tbsp fresh cilantro, chopped
2 tsp red pepper flakes

Place wings on an aluminum foil-lined 15" x 10" jelly-roll pan. Drizzle wings with oil and toss to coat; sprinkle with 1-1/2 teaspoons salt and one teaspoon pepper. Bake at 400 degrees for 50 minutes; do not turn. Remove from oven. Using tongs, carefully lift wings from foil. Stir together remaining salt, pepper and other ingredients. Drizzle 1/3 cup of sauce mixture over hot wings and toss to coat. Serve remainder separately for dipping. Makes 2-1/2 to 3 dozen.

7-Layer Mexican Dip

16-oz. can refried beans
2 cups sour cream
1 packet taco seasoning mix
2 avocados, pitted, peeled and mashed
2 tsp lemon juice
3 cloves garlic, minced
2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
4 green onions, diced
1/4 cup black olives, sliced
1 tomato, diced
tortilla chips

Spread beans in the bottom of a 10" round or square clear glass dish; set aside. Combine sour cream and seasoning mix; spread over beans. Mix avocados, lemon juice and garlic; layer over sour cream mixture. Sprinkle with cheese; top with onions, olives and tomato. Serve with tortilla chips. Serves 8.

Tangy Cranberry Meatballs

1 1/4 lbs. frozen meatballs
1 packet brown gravy mix
3/4 cup whole-berry cranberry sauce
2 tsp Dijon mustard
2 tbsp whipping cream
Optional:
sweetened, dried cranberries
minced fresh parsley

Place frozen meatballs in a slow cooker; set aside. Make gravy according to package directions; stir in cranberry sauce, mustard and cream. Stir until well blended; pour over meatballs and stir to coat evenly. Cover and cook on low setting for 4 to 5 hours, or on high setting for 2 to 3 hours. To serve, use a slotted spoon to remove meatballs to a serving dish. Sprinkle with dried cranberries and minced parsley, if desired. Makes about 4 dozen meatballs.

Holiday Brie

13.2-oz. pkg. Brie cheese
1/4 cup caramel ice cream topping
1/2 cup sweetened dried cranberries
1/2 cup dried apricots, chopped
1/2 cup chopped pecans
1 loaf crusty French bread, sliced, toasted and buttered

Place cheese on an ungreased microwave-safe serving plate; microwave on high setting for 10 to 15 seconds. Cut out a wedge to see if center is soft. If center is still firm, return to microwave for another 5 to 10 seconds, until cheese is soft and spreadable. Watch carefully, as center will begin to melt quickly. Drizzle with caramel topping; sprinkle with fruits and nuts. Serve with toasted slices of crusty French bread. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Slow-Cooker Buffalo Chicken Nachos

1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts
garlic salt to taste
salt and pepper to taste
12-oz. bottle buffalo wing sauce
1/2 cup ranch salad dressing
1/2 lb. pasteurized process cheese spread, cubed
10-oz. can diced tomatoes with green chiles
12-oz. pkg. tortilla chips

Place chicken in a slow cooker; sprinkle with garlic salt, salt and pepper. Pour in enough buffalo wing sauce to cover chicken. Cover and cook on low setting until very tender, about 4 hours. Shred chicken with 2 forks and drain off any excess liquid. Stir in salad dressing. In a saucepan, combine cheese and tomatoes with green chiles. Cook and stir until cheese melts. Layer tortilla chips on a large serving plate. Spoon cheese sauce over chips; top with chicken. Serves 6 to 8.

Cheesy Stuffed Mushrooms

20 to 25 lg. white mushrooms, with stems
2 tbsp butter
8 oz. pkg. cheddar cheese, shredded
8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
garlic salt to taste
onion salt to taste
paprika to taste

Carefully remove mushroom stems. Dice stems, sauté them in butter until tender. Set aside to cool. Mix together Cheddar cheese & cream cheese until whipped. Season with garlic salt, onion salt & fold in the stems. Stuff mushrooms & place on a cookie sheet. Sprinkle tops with additional shredded cheese & paprika. Bake at 325 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve warm. Makes 20 to 25.

Fruit Salsa with Cinnamon Chips

2 kiwis, peeled and diced
2 Golden Delicious apples, cored, peeled and diced
1/2 lb. raspberries
16-oz. pkg. strawberries, hulled and diced
2 cups plus 2 tsp sugar, divided
1 tbsp brown sugar, packed
3 tbsp strawberry preserves
10 10-inch flour tortillas, sliced into wedges
1 to 2 tbsp cinnamon

Combine all fruit in a large bowl; mix in 2 tablespoons sugar, brown sugar and strawberry preserves. Cover and chill for at least 15 minutes. Mix together remaining sugar and cinnamon. Arrange tortilla wedges on a baking sheet; coat with butter-flavored cooking spray. Sprinkle with desired amount of cinnamon-sugar. Bake at 350 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes. Repeat with remaining tortilla wedges; cool for 15 minutes. Serve chips with chilled fruit mixture. Makes 10 to 15 servings.

Hot Cranberry Punch

2-32 oz. cans cranberry juice cocktail
6-oz. can frozen pineapple or orange juice concentrate
2 cups water
12" cinnamon sticks
3 whole cloves

In a saucepan bring all ingredients to a boil. Reduce heat and then simmer for 20 minutes. Makes 10 cups.



Copyright Gooseberry Patch

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SAD 44 takes part in Lego competition

The LEGO FLL (First LEGO League) competition took place this past Saturday, Dec. 13. SAD 44 had a team from CPS and TMS that went to the competition.

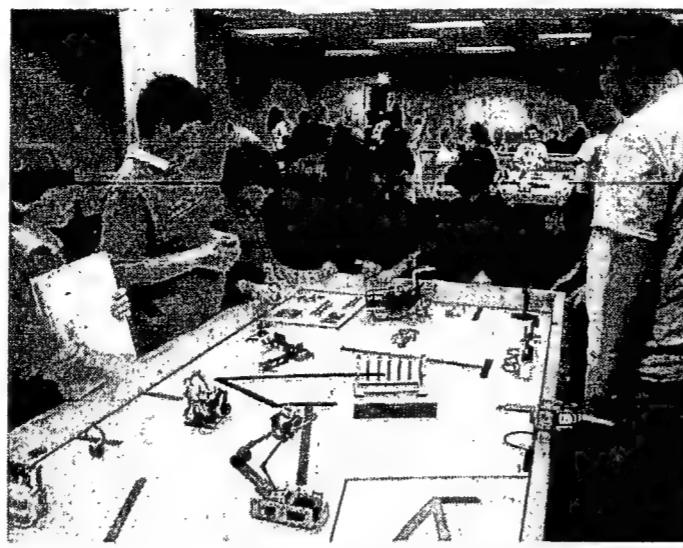
The students did an amazing job. The table top presentation (where we control the robots) was not our best event, however, we nailed the presentation! It was on "How do digital immigrants learn all of the new technology?" A digital immigrant would be someone mostly born before 1960-ish.

They also did a great job in "Teamwork" where they had a problem to solve and they had to build something with LEGOS to show

how to solve the problem and do it without arguments - "Gracious professionalism." They did great! They also had two programs that were noteworthy when we went to see the technical judges. They used the color sensor to "follow a red line" - took us a while to get that one!

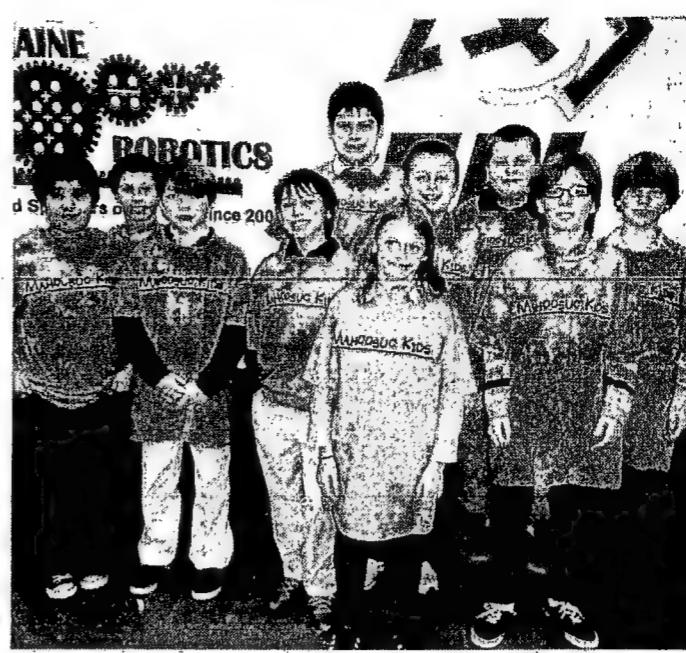
The boys really do deserve a pat on the back even if we did not come home with a trophy. There were over 70 teams there, 600 kids, and we were a novice team, coming to the LEGO competition for the first time except for one boy.

Congratulations! I am so proud of my LEGO team. - Marie Keane



The SAD 44 boys at the competition table show the judges their technical programs and their robot that they built for the competition.

Submitted photo



Representing SAD 44 were, front: Romeo Villaneueva, Ben Godomsky, Harry Connors, Michael James and Eli Shifrin. Back: Reese Rosenberg, Trey Meader, and Tanner Martin Utah Bean and Huntley Blair.

Submitted photo

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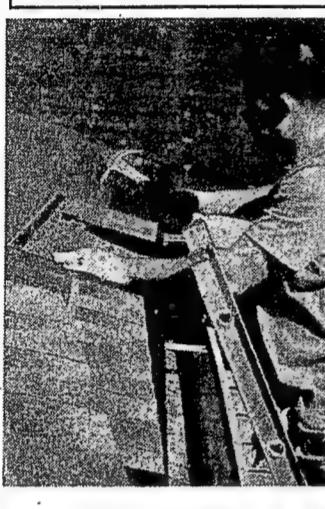
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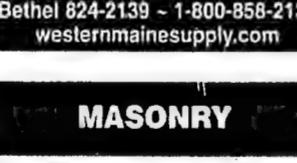
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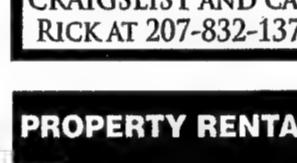
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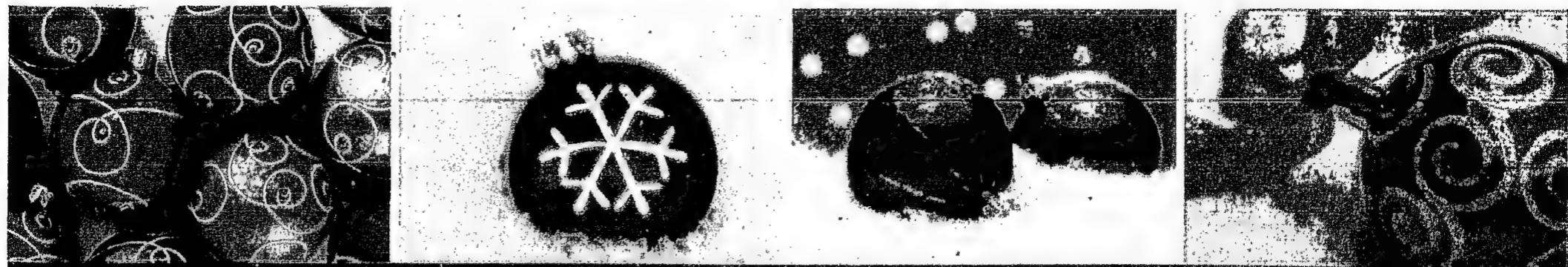
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 Warm spaghetti sauce

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Asian Chicken Wings

4 lbs. chicken wings
 1/4 cup olive oil
 2 1/2 tsp salt, divided
 2 tsp pepper, divided
 1/2 cup honey
 2 tbsp soy sauce
 1 tsp Worcestershire sauce
 juice of 1 lime
 zest of 2 limes
 2 cloves garlic, finely minced
 1 tbsp fresh cilantro, chopped
 2 tsp red pepper flakes

Place wings on an aluminum foil-lined 15" x 10" jelly-roll pan. Drizzle wings with oil and toss to coat; sprinkle with 1-1/2 teaspoons salt and one teaspoon pepper. Bake at 400 degrees for 50 minutes; do not turn. Remove from oven. Using tongs, carefully lift wings from foil. Stir together remaining salt, pepper and other ingredients. Drizzle 1/3 cup of sauce mixture over hot wings and toss to coat. Serve remainder separately for dipping. Makes 2-1/2 to 3 dozen.

7-Layer Mexican Dip

16-oz. can refried beans
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 2 tsp lemon juice
 3 cloves garlic, minced
 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
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 1 tomato, diced
 tortilla chips

Spread beans in the bottom of a 10" round or square clear glass dish; set aside. Combine sour cream and seasoning mix; spread over beans. Mix avocados, lemon juice and garlic; layer over sour cream mixture. Sprinkle with cheese; top with onions, olives and tomato. Serve with tortilla chips. Serves 8.

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 1 packet brown gravy mix
 3/4 cup whole-berry cranberry sauce
 2 tsp Dijon mustard
 2 tbsp whipping cream
Optional:
 sweetened, dried cranberries
 minced fresh parsley

Place frozen meatballs in a slow cooker; set aside. Make gravy according to package directions; stir in cranberry sauce, mustard and cream. Stir until well blended; pour over meatballs and stir to coat evenly. Cover and cook on low setting for 4 to 5 hours, or on high setting for 2 to 3 hours. To serve, use a slotted spoon to remove meatballs to a serving dish. Sprinkle with dried cranberries and minced parsley, if desired. Makes about 4 dozen meatballs.

Holiday Brie

13.2-oz. pkg. Brie cheese
 1/4 cup caramel ice cream topping
 1/2 cup sweetened dried cranberries
 1/2 cup dried apricots, chopped
 1/2 cup chopped pecans
 1 loaf crusty French bread, sliced, toasted and buttered

Place cheese on an ungreased microwave-safe serving plate; microwave on high setting for 10 to 15 seconds. Cut out a wedge to see if center is soft. If center is still firm, return to microwave for another 5 to 10 seconds, until cheese is soft and spreadable. Watch carefully, as center will begin to melt quickly. Drizzle with caramel topping; sprinkle with fruits and nuts. Serve with toasted slices of crusty French bread. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Slow-Cooker Buffalo Chicken Nachos

1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts
 garlic salt to taste
 salt and pepper to taste
 12-oz. bottle buffalo wing sauce
 1/2 cup ranch salad dressing
 1/2 lb. pasteurized process cheese spread, cubed
 10-oz. can diced tomatoes with green chiles
 12-oz. pkg. tortilla chips

Place chicken in a slow cooker; sprinkle with garlic salt, salt and pepper. Pour in enough buffalo wing sauce to cover chicken. Cover and cook on low setting until very tender, about 4 hours. Shred chicken with 2 forks and drain off any excess liquid. Stir in salad dressing. In a saucepan, combine cheese and tomatoes with green chiles. Cook and stir until cheese melts. Layer tortilla chips on a large serving plate. Spoon cheese sauce over chips; top with chicken. Serves 6 to 8.

Cheesy Stuffed Mushrooms

20 to 25 lg. white mushrooms, with stems
 2 tbsp butter
 8 oz. pkg. cheddar cheese, shredded
 8 oz. pkg. cream cheese
 garlic salt to taste
 onion salt to taste
 paprika to taste

Carefully remove mushroom stems. Dice stems, sauté them in butter until tender. Set aside to cool. Mix together Cheddar cheese & cream cheese until whipped. Season with garlic salt, onion salt & fold in the stems. Stuff mushrooms & place on a cookie sheet. Sprinkle tops with additional shredded cheese & paprika. Bake at 325 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes or until cheese is melted. Serve warm. Makes 20 to 25.

Fruit Salsa with Cinnamon Chips

2 kiwis, peeled and diced
 2 Golden Delicious apples, cored, peeled and diced
 1/2 lb. raspberries
 16-oz. pkg. strawberries, hulled and diced
 2 cups plus 2 tsp sugar, divided
 1 tbsp brown sugar, packed
 3 tbsp strawberry preserves
 10 10-inch flour tortillas, sliced into wedges
 1 to 2 tbsp cinnamon

Combine all fruit in a large bowl; mix in 2 tablespoons sugar, brown sugar and strawberry preserves. Cover and chill for at least 15 minutes. Mix together remaining sugar and cinnamon. Arrange tortilla wedges on a baking sheet; coat with butter-flavored cooking spray. Sprinkle with desired amount of cinnamon sugar. Bake at 350 degrees for 8 to 10 minutes. Repeat with remaining tortilla wedges; cool for 15 minutes. Serve chips with chilled fruit mixture. Makes 10 to 15 servings.

Hot Cranberry Punch

2-32 oz. cans cranberry juice cocktail
 6-oz. can frozen pineapple or orange juice concentrate
 2 cups water
 12 cinnamon sticks
 3 whole cloves

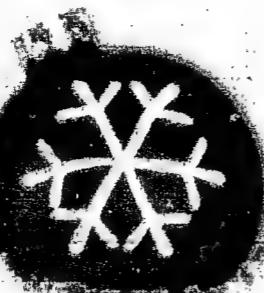
In a saucepan bring all ingredients to a boil. Reduce heat and then simmer for 20 minutes. Makes 10 cups.



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Gift Wrap Tricks to save time

there are a few tricks of the trade wrappers can lean on to make the process of wrapping gifts go as quickly and as smoothly as possible.

Stock up on double-sided tape. Wrapping with double-sided tape helps you avoid unsightly tape lines and creates a neat finished product.

Use a toilet paper tube to preserve wrapping paper rolls and keep them from unravelling. Simply cut the tube lengthwise and snap it over the open roll of paper to serve as a handy clip to keep the paper tidy.

When you lose the edge of the tape on a roll, it can take precious time trying to find it again and then lift a piece of tape off the roll. Use a plastic bread clip to hold the place of the edge of the tape to prevent this from happening.

Turn snack containers into handy gift wrap options. Empty potato chip cannisters can be wrapped and used to hold other food gifts or smaller stocking stuffers. Turn a foil-lined chip or popcorn bag inside out, first cleaning away any grease and crumbs, and use the bag to wrap a gift and tie off the end with a decorative ribbon.

Wooden spoons or popsicle sticks can make clever gift tags. Poke a hole in the end and tie onto your gift.

Use a piece of fabric to wrap a present if you're not too skilled with traditional paper. Fabric can be reused and is more durable, and you won't run the risk of tearing an edge or poking a hole through it. This can be especially useful for oddly shaped gifts.

Newsprint tied with natural cord and some pine boughs is an inexpensive, classic-looking gift wrap.

Kraft butcher paper or brown mailing paper can be used in a pinch. Stamp images on the paper to customize the gift wrap and use ribbons and bows to further dress things up.

Always work on a hard, flat surface, as working on the floor or a soft surface makes it more difficult to control wrapping paper and you're more likely to tear the paper.

Use a gift box or cardboard to create a firm container to wrap soft gifts.

Reuse old boxes to create a greeting card. Use a piece of ribbon and a bow and your newly created card as a thank-you or gift tag for future gifts. This is a great way to recycle during a season when excess is common.

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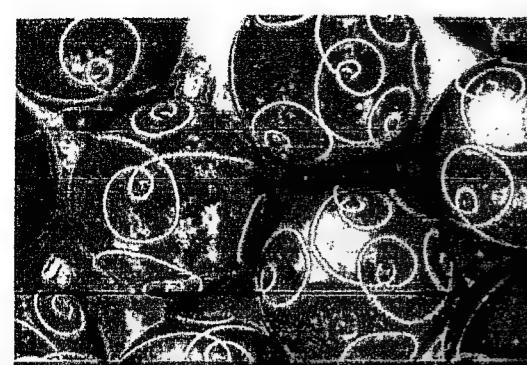
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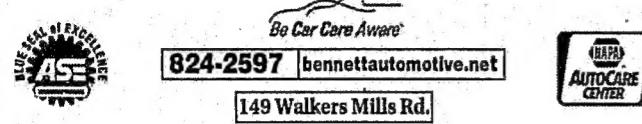
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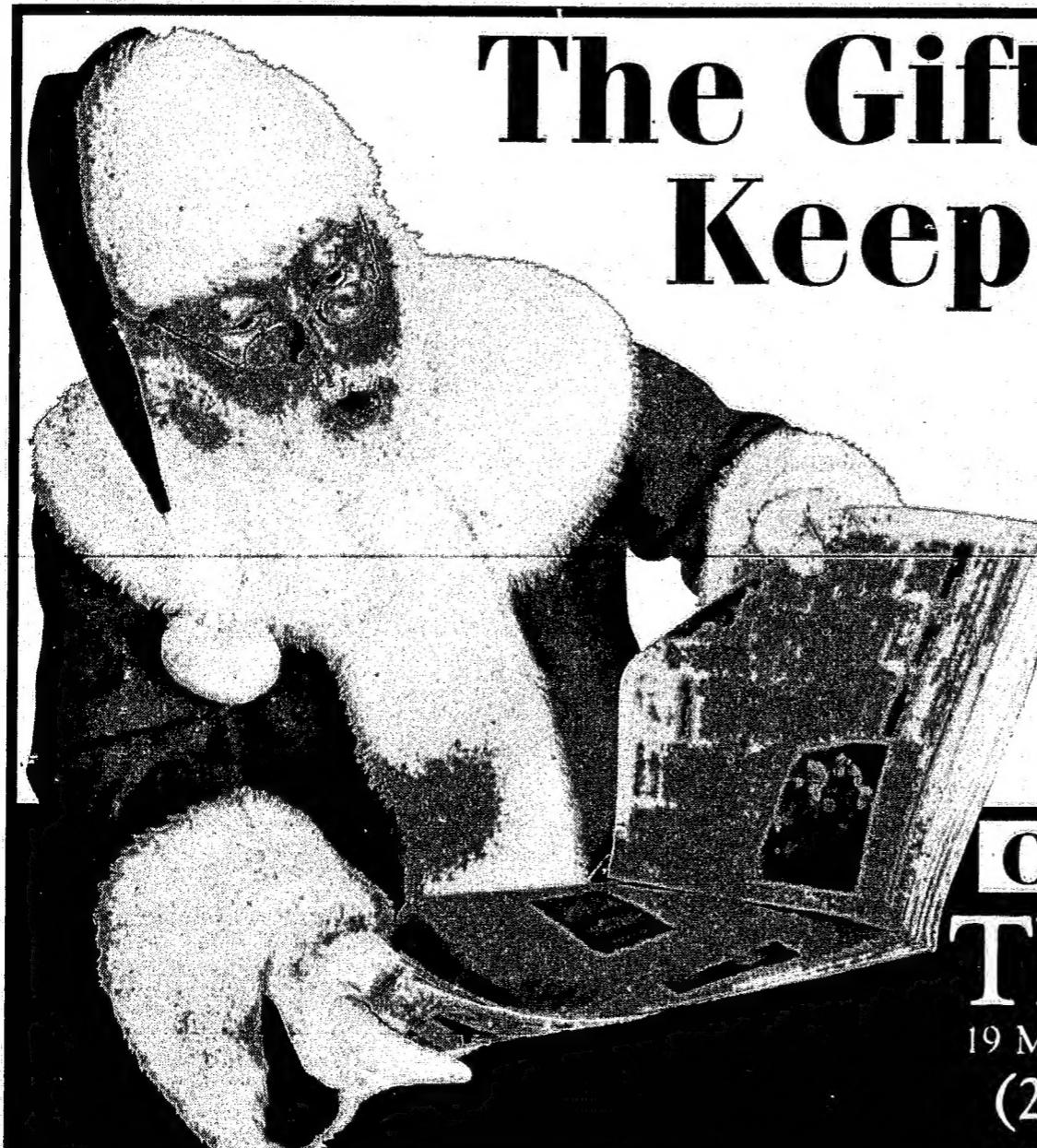
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Obituaries



BARBARA DOUGLASS

Barbara A. Douglass, 97, of Bethel for over 58 years, died Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014, at Pleasant View Center, Concord, N.H. She was born in Newton, Mass., on April 27, 1917, the daughter of William Case and Edna Louise (Harte) Anderson. She graduated from Newton High School, Newton, Mass., in 1934, and attended Marlborough Secretarial School, Boston, Mass., prior to graduating from Westbrook Junior College in Portland in 1941. She received her degree in social work from Bates College, Lewiston in 1957 and was employed by the Maine Department of Human Services for 25 years as a social worker. Barbara was married in Newton Center, Mass., on May 20, 1939 to the late Dana C. Douglass. They were married for 60 years before his passing on July 30, 1999. After a brief stay in Forest Hills, N.Y., they moved to Portland

where she was active in the American Red Cross and Ambulance Service during World War II, was the past president of the Portland Junior League, past president of the Catherine Morrill Day Nursery, on the board of the Pine Tree Society for Crippled Children, and a member of the Child Welfare Board serving on many committees. She served many years on the Women's Board of the Maine General Hospital, now the Maine Medical Center, Portland.

In 1950, the family moved to Bethel where they raised four daughters. She was an active member, a Sunday School teacher, and past Deaconess of the Bethel West Parish Congregational Church, member of the Bethel P.T.A., participated in many of the area drives for health organizations, was a Girl Scout Leader, a member of the Bethel Historical Society, past president of the Bethel Health Area Center, director of the Stephens Memorial Hospital Auxiliary in Norway, an active volunteer for the Androscoggin Home Health Services, and on the Chamber of Commerce Board. In 2009, she received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce. She enjoyed being involved with National Training Laboratories that have come to

Bethel since 1957. In 1982, Barbara and Dana opened their home as The Douglass Place Bed & Breakfast on Mayville Road, Bethel. This had been a dream of hers for some time and she enjoyed meeting people from around the world and having people come back for repeat stays. Barbara's greatest love and enjoyment was people, sharing time with others, giving of herself joyfully to support others in their lives, entertaining, participating in community causes and getting the very most out of life. She will be remembered for that twinkle of love and of gratitude in her eyes and her smile!

Survivors include daughters Barbara Weeks and husband Peter of Dunbarton, N.H. and Cheryl Douglass of Woburn, Mass.; six grandchildren, Todd Kellogg of Orlando, Fla., Bryan Kellogg and wife Heather of Bryant Pond, Brooks Rapp and husband Timmy of Concord, N.H., Porter Weeks and wife Brittany of Dunbarton, N.H., Andrea Sickinger and husband Jonathan of South Hadley, Mass., and Karen Bieluch and husband Jesse of Milford; great grandchildren,

Ella, Grady, Lauren, Olivia, Dylan, Taylor, and Colin; sons-in-law Mark Hutchins of Salisbury, N.H. and Benjamin Kellogg of Bethel.

She was predeceased by her parents, husband and two daughters, Diana Kellogg and Pamela Hutchins.

Friends are invited to sign the family guest book and share their thoughts, condolences and memories online at www.meaderandon.com.

A Celebration of her life will be conducted 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, 2015 at the West Parish Congregational Church, 32 Church Street, Bethel with Rev. Richard Bennett officiating. Interment in the spring will be at the Riverside Cemetery, Bethel. In lieu of flowers please contribute to the West Parish Congregational Church, 32 Church Street, Bethel, Maine 04217; Stephens Memorial Hospital, 181 Main Street, Norway, Maine 04268 or Androscoggin Home Health, 15 Strawberry Avenue, Lewiston, Maine 04243 in her memory. Arrangements are under the care of the Meader & Son Funeral Home 3 Franklin Street, P.O. Box 537, Rumford, Maine 04276.

ISAAC J. RUSSELL

Isaac J. Russell, 86, husband of Mary (Cawley) Russell died at the Maine Medical Center on Wednesday Dec. 10, 2014. He was born in Portage River, New Brunswick Canada on Oct. 6, 1928 the son of the late Martin Russell and Lena (Gorman) Russell and was educated in Canadian schools.

Isaac had owned and operated Central Maine Limousine for 12 years from 1994 to 2006 and owned Russell Ambulance Service from 1963 to 1990. He was a member of the Christ Episcopal Church of Norway and loved to fly and go boating.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years Mary Russell of Norway; two sisters Lorna Greenburg of Florida and Alice Dickson of New Brunswick; 5 grandchildren, Joseph Bennett of Oxford, Jonathan Russell of Harrison, Gabrielle Russell of Norway, Joshua Russell of Lisbon and Jordan Russell of Norway and seven great grandchildren.

He was predeceased by two sons - I Charles Russell in 1989 and John Scott Russell in 2011.

A funeral Service will be held on Jan. 7 at 1 p.m. at the First Congregation.

al Church in South Paris. Burial will be in the spring at Pikes Hill Cemetery.

PRISCILLA DAMON

Priscilla J. Damon, 74, of West Paris, passed away peacefully on Friday, Dec. 5, 2014 at CMMC Hospital, with family at her side.

She was born July 4, 1940 in South Woodstock, the daughter of Charles and Hazel (Smith) Cary. She grew up in Woodstock and attended the local school. Later, she became a caregiver for the elderly. Later, she moved to South Paris and made her home there for many years. After she became unable to care for herself she went to Ledgewood Nursing Home and lived until being hospitalized at CMMC.

She was predeceased by her parents Charles and Hazel Cary, brothers Robert and Randal Cary and sisters Beverly Elliot and Esther Bailey. She is survived by brothers, Rodney Cary of Bethel and Paul Cary of Bryant Pond; sisters, Margaret Holden of South Paris and Rebecca Keen of Bryant Pond and several nieces and nephews. There will be a private graveside service in the spring.

CHURCH SERVICES

ALBANY

Congregational Church

- Hunts Corner, 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship and Sunday School at 9 a.m.; Pastor Eddie Gammon. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Thursdays at the home of Fernand Corriveau.

ANDOVER

First Congregational Church - Rev. Jane Rich. Sunday morning worship

Thank You!!

We'd like to thank everyone who attended and helped make Turkey Tuesday a huge success again this year. Special thanks to American Legion Jackson-Silver Post, Conant Meat and Produce, North Center Food Service, Sebago Brewing Co., Maine Press and The Bethel Citizen. A very special thanks to all the volunteers who helped, we couldn't have done it without you!

Our community's generosity raised a truck-load of food and almost \$1,500 for the District Exchange and Bethel Food Pantry.

We hope to see you all next year!
Heather & Dave

10 to 11 a.m. followed by brunch. All welcome. FMI: 392-3761.

Calvary Bible Church - Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.; Wednesday Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m. 1063 South Main St. 392-1121.

BETHEL

Bethel Alliance Church

- 251 Walker's Mills Road, Rev. Kevin Bellinger, Senior Pastor and Nicholas Lutzo, Youth Pastor. Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School for adults, teens and children; 10 a.m. Worship Service (Nursery care and Children's Church are available); 4:30-6 p.m. Kidz Klub (4 yrs-5th grade). Thursdays: 5:30 p.m. Middle and High School Youth Group. FMI: 207-824-2289.

Bethel Church of the Nazarene - 16 Church Street, Bethel. Sunday School, 9:30 (for all ages). Pastor Peter Carter. The third Sunday of every month at 9 a.m. breakfast open to the public, no charge. Morning Worship 10:30. Wednesday evening 6 p.m. Prayer and Bible Study. FMI, transportation or prayer please contact Elaine Carter 415-9136, or Juanita Korhonen 665-2528.

Roman Catholic Church of the Holy Savior, Our

Lady of the Snows

- 265 Walkers Mills Road (Route 26). Fr. Gregory Dube may be reached at the parish office 364-4556. Saturday Mass, 6 p.m. Announcements. FMI: 824-2933.

West Parish Congregational

- Church Street, Rev. Richard Bennett. Sundays: 10 a.m. worship and Sunday School Sept.-May. Tuesdays: 8 a.m., informal Prayer Group with coffee in the Chapel. All are welcome. First Wednesday of the month: 8 a.m., Mens' Breakfast Group. Entrance in rear of church. All events open to everyone. This is an open and affirming congregation. FMI: 824-2689.

United Methodist - 79 Main Street, Pastor Carol Stevens. Sunday worship service 9 a.m. FMI: 824-2027.

West Bethel Union - Morning worship and 9 a.m. Sunday School. FMI: 836-3535.

Pleasant Valley Bible

Pastor Dave Fraher. Sunday Services: Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Worship Service, 10 a.m. Ladies Bible study Tuesday, 2:30 p.m. Midweek Bible study and prayer. Wednesday 6 p.m. Awana Club Fridays 3:30 to 5 p.m. (Cubbies ages 3/4; Sparks Grades K-2; children may take bus from school). FMI: 836-2828. Visit us on our Facebook page.

Seventh Day Adventist Fellowship: Meets at the Nazarene Church on Saturdays, on Church Street in Bethel. Sabbath School 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m. FMI: 357-7814.

EAST STONEHAM

Oxford County United Parish Churches in Stoneham and North Waterford - Services at 10 a.m. at the North Waterford Congregational Church (UCC), located on the Five Kezars Road, off Routes 35 & 37, opposite Melby's Market. (North Waterford and East Stoneham Congregational Churches will hold their joint services in the church on Route 5 in East Stoneham during May.) Services held at North Waterford through the winter months. Choir practice 9 a.m., followed by Bible Study at 9:15 a.m.

LOCKE'S MILLS

Locke Mills Union - Pastor Sondra Withey. Sunday Morning Service and Sunday School, 9 to 10 a.m. Choir practice at the church every Friday at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. 875-3355.

NORTH WATERFORD/STONEHAM

OXFORD COUNTY UNITED PARISH (North Waterford and East Stoneham) - Summer services at 9 a.m. in the North Waterford Church on Route 35 across from Melby's Eatery. On July 20 a special-and casual-church service will be held on the Fairgrounds during the Waterford World's Fair, with shuttle service available on site. In September, services will return to the East Stoneham Church, Route 5, and the regular hour of 10. All are welcome.

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HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY
DESTINY DANIELLE!!!

I LOVE YOU SO VERY MUCH!!!!

DAD